ould only encourage the press to Anyway, it's my name. The id. I have a right to do as I like ithout having to disguise it. I make the interest and the interest and the interest and its property in ally with my own name. I have no ed to hide it. And if I write, whi t use it? It's also my identity.

She also has good reason to think at her father would be proud of at her lattice s book. And at a time n Millerrand's place in heavy if very much to be defined she s teciprocated his pride hy pur ying him, indirectly at least as ring and loval father. I have dicated the book to him because s the most beautiful way of pertuating his memory. she said Still, while willing to assume the ks of writing fiction, Pingeo B t ready to face what she fear will a new wave of harasment h parazzi. She has therefore len ince and is writing her second vel in a country that her ednor if not disclose have gone ma ale to flee all that she and perfully in a telephone call to

us that she initiated. "I'll be but

ne day, I don't know when



Rosie O'Donnell, left, and rat the Kids Choice Awards.

ATET DIRECT" SERVICE

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Herald



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Beijing Gains Wide Immunity In Hong Kong's **Legal System**

Legislature Clears New Law On Day Before Its Dissolution; 'Just the Beginning,' Foes Say

By Philip Segal

HONG KONG — China's handpicked pro-visional legislature adopted a bill Tuesday that exempts some mainland Chinese agencies from Hong Kong law.

The law gives Beijing many of the legal exemptions that Britain enjoyed under colonial rule and opens the door to wider immunity for Chinese officials and their allies in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Bar Association and opposition politicians have been stunned by the law's scope and the speed at which it was introduced. The action came one day before the unelected, temporary legislature will be dissolved.

The law is seen as potentially the higgest departure from the past for Hong Kong since China

scrapped the previous legislature when it took over in July. The rule of law in Hong Kong has meant a dependable court system and hard line on corruption - both key to its success as an international financial center.

"This is only just the beginning," said Albert Ho of the Democratic Party during a protest outside the legislature, reflecting fears that more and more people will be put above the law.

A sign held by a protester read: "Shame!
Shame! Shame! Ruhber Stamp."

In an attempt to defer action on the hill until after elections in May, the Human Rights Monitor group met Tuesday with Justice Department officials. But the officials maintained that the change was purely technical and reflected Hong

Kong's new status from July 1 as part of China.

The government has pointed out that the British Crown was exempt from certain laws and that the new law simply replaced the word "crown" with

The Hong Kong Bar Association said that the

See HONG KONG, Page 6



Prime Minister Tony Blair leaving No. 10 Downing Street on Tuesday to fly to Northern Ireland.

Japan Bribery Scandal Heats Up

Inquiry Implicates More Than 100 Central Bank Aides

By Sandra Sugawara
Washington Pust Service

TOKYO - The hribery scandal that has rocked Japan's financial world widened Tuesday when the governor of the Bank of Japan, Masaru Hayami, told Parliament that an internal investigation had uncovered more central bank officials suspected of leaking inside information.

Mr. Hayami told the Finance Committee of the

lower house of Parliament that more than 100 central bank officials may be reprimanded for accepting improper levels of dining and entertainment from the private sector. In a few cases, the individuals were also found to have disclosed inside information, he said.

Those individuals worked for Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, a former central bank official who was indicted on charges of accepting bribes in return for disclosing confidential central bank data. Mr. Hayami said the inquiry's results would be announced by next week. The revelations were the latest in a sweeping in-

vestigation by Japanese prosecutors into the relationship of top banks and brokerage firms to Finance Ministry and Bank of Japan officials. Prosecutors have charged that the abundant and costly wining and dining of bureaucrats by executives was aften a ploy to

The investigations have led to the arrest of four Finance Ministry officials, as well as Mr. Yoshizawa. Many of the nanno's best known hanks and securities companies have been linked to the scandal.

get preferential treatment and inside information.

Earlier Tuesday, nine of Japan's most powerful bankers were summoned before the Finance Committee to explain their banks' roles in the bribery scandal and in a credit crunch that is allegedly burning small companies. One hy one, the heads of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Industrial Bank of Japan, Foji Bank, Sakura Bank and other banks came forward, apologized, and then bowed, as they testified at the unusual gathering. "I deeply apologize for causing disturbance to

See JAPAN, Page 4

Blair Flies to Ulster As Talks Hit a Snag

Unionists Assail Mitchell Plan As More Favorable to Catholics

By James F. Clarity New York Times Service

BELFAST - Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain flew to Northern Ireland on Tuesday in an urgent effort to remove a serious snag in the peace negotiations between Protestant and Ro-man Catholic political leaders in this predominantly Protestant British

province.
"I feel the hand of history upon our shoulders," Mr. Blair said on arriving at Hillsborough, a government residence south of Belfast for a meeting with David Trimble, the Protestant unionist leader who produced the new snag on Tuesday morning.

"h's right to try," Mr. Blair said, "and I'm here to try.

The deadline for a settlement designed to end 800 years of sectarian violence in Ireland has been set for midnight Thursday. The collapse of the talks would most likely lead to a renewal of the violence that has killed more than 3,200 people in the north since 1969.

Mr. Blair said it was important to reach agreement on two basic principles: that Northern Ireland should remain British as long as a majority of its people wanted that, and that there should be recognition of the Irish nationalist identity and fair and equal treatment for Roman Catholics and Protestants.

The prime minister arrived hours after the latest, and most serious, obstacle to agreement was advanced by Mr. Trimble, the leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party.

Mr. Trimble said that a set of proposals given to the negotiating parties early Tuesday morning by George Mitchell, the former American senator who is chairman of the talks, was unacceptable, that it was biased in favor of the two Catholic parties, the mainstream

Social Democratic Labour and Sinn Fein, the political wing of the outlawed

Irish Republican Army.
Mr. Blair also sought to reassure Protestants, noting that British and Irish policy proposed for insertion in any new agreement is that there will be no united Ireland - the ultimate goal of the IRA unless it is approved by a majority. The Northern Ireland majority is likely to remain Protestant well into the new

Mr. Trimble's rejection was widely seen as a melodramatic factic to take the initiative in peace talks. But it could push the talks to the brink of a collapse. Such a collapse would probably turn the melodrama into the tragedy of widespread violence by the main Catholic and Protestant guerrilla groups, which are now observing cease-fires.

Once Mr. Trimble makes his own proposals in the next two days, the predictable reaction would be rejection by Sinn Fein and possibly the Social Democrats and a rush of last-ditch negotiations to get a compromise agreement by mid-night Thursday. The Catholics would seek support from Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland, while Protestants look to Mr. Blair to argue for them.

Mr. Mitchell said Tuesday morning that the deadline would not be extended and that his job as chairman of the talks was virtually over after nearly two

The Catholics want an agreement that would increase their political power in a new elected lawmaking assembly that wanld be part of the drastic changes in Northern Ireland's political structure envisioned in Mr. Mitchell's proposals. They also want a new cross-border North-South Council, with ministers from the north and the Irish Republic, that would be authorized to make binding decisions in northern affairs. Now,

See ULSTER, Page 6

U.S. Bank Merger: A Big Bet on Asia

Risky Bid by Citigroup to Become a Regional Financial Supermarket

By Mark Landler New York Times Service

HONG KONG - John Reed first realized his vision of Citibank as a financial supermarket for the emerging middle class in Asia during the 1980s, when the bank opened hundreds of branches, granted thousands of mortages, and sold millions of credit cards from Taiwan to Thailand.

Now, by announcing plans to merge Citibank with Travelers Group, Mr. Reed, the Citibank chairman, is betting that Asia's middle-class consumers are ready to buy an even broader array of ices from a single company. is a bold bet - made all the more

risky because the economic crisis here for Asia, Mr. Niem and other analysts has sapped the finances of the very predicted that the merger would have a customers this vast new company is trying to reach. Selling mutual funds and credit cards is no easy task at a time

Citigroup deal puts pressure on U.S. to change banking laws. Page 11.

when household incomes are falling in

almost every Asian country. "The challenge for the group is whether they can sell Travelers services to Citibank's mid-market customers,"

said Philip Niem, a banking analyst at HSBC Securities in Hong Kong.
Whatever the immediate prospects

greater impact on the regional'financial industry than any other bank merger, including the 1995 combination of Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo.

'This is the model that Asian and European banks will have to adopt if they want to compete," said David K. P. Li, chairman Bank of East Asia, a Hong Kong-based bank with a major presence in China.

Mr. Li predicted that the deal would force governments in Japan and Korea to relax restrictions on financial institutions
— allowing them to offer commercial

See DEAL, Page 6

Unemployment Declines, but Few Germans Applaud

BERLIN - Chanting "Kohl must go," about ,000 johless protesters rallied outside government offices Toesday in the third consecutive monthly demonstration timed to the announcement of unemployment data.

The number of johless workers in Germany fell to 4.62 million in February, with 200,000 fewer people out of work than the previous month, the Federal Labor

But the 12.1 unemployment rate for March — down from 12.6 percent in February — was still a record high for the month.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government agreed that joblessness remained "unacceptably high," especially

in the former East Germany.
Yet, the government said an improving picture in Western Germany indicated "that the trend reversal has slowly set in there."

The powerful IG Metall metalworkers union dismissed even the government's caurious optimism as an election tactic. A union spokesman, Joachim Toeppel, said that a similar drop in numbers last year was followed by an increase to almost 5 million un-

Unemployment has become a key campaign issue in national elections Sept. 27, in which Mr. Kohl is

See GERMANY, Page 6

Bull Market Bypasses Many Americans

By Clay Chandler Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - The millions of U.S. investors who climbed aboard the Starship Dow before its takeoff in the 1990s have watched their net worth soar. But many more have missed the ride. While Americans are piling into the

market in record numbers, the most recent data suggest that six of every 10 spuseholds still do not own stocks and thus have reaped no direct benefit from the current boom in share prices. That troubles many analysts, who

warn that the bull market on Wall Street is aggravating other disturbing economic trends and pushing disparities in wealth and income to proportions not seen since the Gilded Age.

One of the many standing on the sidelines is Mike Marcus, 45, a painter from Summit Point, West Virginia. "Pfft Don't care," he shrugged, when asked his vicens about the Don't care. asked his views about the Dow Jones industrial average's giddy climb to the 9,000 level "You've got to have money to get into it. If you live paycheck to paycheck, it's kind of hard to do that." Mr. Marcus's attitude is typical. According to the Federal Reserve Board's

Newsstand Prices

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	The Dollar	
New York	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous cices
DM	1.8373	1.8406
Pound	1.6674	1.6863
Yen	133.48	134.705
FF	6.162	6.175
300505	The Dow	
4	Tuesday close	previous close
-76.73	8956.50	9033.23
	S&P 500	
change	Tuesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
-11.85	1109.54	1121.39

Survey of Consumer Finances, which many economists consider the most authoritative source of information about household investment patterns, 41 percent of all American families owned which data were available.

stock in 1995, the most recent year for That is an increase from 37 percent in 1992 and 32 percent in 1989. But the

Fed survey — which considered stocks held directly and through mutual funds, retirement accounts and other types of trusts hut not stocks held indirectly through defined-benefit pension funds sponsored by employers — found wide disparities in stock ownership by income group.

For example, 84 percent of house

holds earning more than \$100,000 a year held stocks, according to the survey, with a median value of \$91,000 for their holdings. By contrast, only about 48 percent of households making between \$25,000 and \$50,000 a year held stocks - and the median value of their holdings was \$8,000.

"The market's rise may be increasing assets of some middle-income families, but the overall effect has got to be widening the already large gaps in wealth and income," said Robert Greenstein, executive director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. "Sure, the average middle-class guy with a few shares in a

See MARKET, Page 6



A jobless demonstrator in Berlin on Tuesday carrying a punning poster that translates as "Kohl go away, send cash."

AGENDA

Mahathir Defends Politician's Jail Term

Prime Minister Mahathir hin Mohamad of Malaysia defended an 18month prison term given to an op-position member of Parliament after the punishment was criticized by Amnesty International.

He said justice should be meted out fairly to opposition members as well as government politicians. Page 4.

PAGE TWO Black and Alienated in South Africa EUROPE France-U.S. Airline Accord Reached

Page 10. ... Pages 8-9. .. Pages 18-29. Page 4, 7. The IHT on-line vzww.iht.com

War Criminal Freed From Italy Detention

ROME (AP) - A former Nazi officer convicted in a wartime massacre can leave house arrest, a military court ruled Tuesday. Former Major Karl Hass, 86, was sentenced March 7 to life in prison for the reprisal killings of 335 Italians by German soldiers in 1944. He was allowed to serve the sentence at a nursing home.

All Work and No Play: Should Schools Really Skip Recess?

By Dirk Johnson New York Times Service

ATLANTA — Sitting in a kindergarten classroom filled with story books, colorful drawings and dazzling computers, Toya Gray was daydreaming about playing outside in the sunshine. "I'd like to sit on the grass," she confided in a whisper of angelic conspiracy, "and look for lady-

bugs."

But there is no time for such lollygagging. The Atlanta public schools, like many districts across the United States, have eliminated recess in elementary schools as a waste of time that would be better spent on academics.

Precise numbers are difficult to come by, but cooperating, "Unstructured play gives the child an opportunity to exercise a sense of wonder," said most experts on child's play believe the trend has accelerated in tecent years.

Atlanta is one of the few big school districts to implement a no-recess policy. In general, schools are left to decide for themselves, and elementary schools without recess can be found from Chicago to Fairfax County, Virginia. Some districts have turned to a "socialized recess," where children are required to take part in structured, monitored activities.

The decline of recess has provoked alarm, even indignation, among most authorities on child development. They insist that free time and unstructured play are vital for intellectual and emo-tional growth, as well as skills of negatiating and

Ann O'Bar, president of the American Association on the Child's Right to Play, an organization that promotes the notion of play as an essential right of childhood, a movement that is strong in Scandinavian countries.

"As a society, we've got away from letting our children adventure," Ms. O'Bar said. "There's nothing wrong with letting children be bored. Boredom leads to exploration, which leads to creativity." Adults who dismiss the importance of child's play, Ms. O'Bar said, are missing the point. "What they are playing at," she said, "is the game

But educators cite a panoply of reasons, besides academic pressures, to explain why recess is going the way of inkwells in so many schools: a fear of lawsuits if children become injured, a concern about the possibility of unsavory adults lurking at the edges of playgrounds, and a shortage of teachers and volunteers willing to supervise the chil-

'We are intent on improving academic performance," said Benjamin Canada, the superintendent of schools in Atlanta. "You don't do that by having kids hanging oo the monkey bars.' Recess has become so anachronistic in Atlanta

See RECESS, Page 6



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American Blacks Find a Chill in South Africa

By Suzanne Daley New York Times Service

OHANNESBURG — Charles Moses, raised in New York City and once Governor Mario Cuomo's adviser for black affairs, lives these days in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg. eager to make a contribution to the new South

With a master's degree in business administration. Mr. Moses says, he has skills to offer a country that has too few educated blacks and which - since voting in its first black government in 1994 -- has suffered a huge brain drain caused by fleeing whites.

But like many black Americans who come here, some with an almost missionary zeal, he has not always been received with open arms hy black South Africans. For Mr. Moses, the last straw arrived in the form of a recent opinion article in an influential Johannesburg newspaper suggesting that hlack Americans were taking jobs that would otherwise go to black South Africans.

While black South Africans say African Americans leave something to be desired, some African Americans can offer similar comments. Mr. Moses wrote in The Sunday Independent, which published the article to which he was responding.

Many of us have been lied to misled and abused by our South African brothers and sisters, usually out of jealously and ignorance.

While President Bill Clinton's recent trip to Africa was aimed at focusing the world's attention on this continent, many black Americans turned their attention here long ago and in recent years have come to South Africa in the hope of helping to huild a prosperous black nation.

After Mr. Moses's article. Felicia Mabuza-Suttle. a popular television talk-show host, devoted two one-hour programs to the subject of tensions between black South Africans and black Americans, putting a spotlight on difficulties that have largely, until recently, just been whispered about,

The South Africans on her show, an academic and two business executives, pulled no punches. The Americans, they said, were patronizing, socialized among themselves and believed they were owed something because of their efforts to support anti-apartheid boycotts.

One of the panelists was Makaziwe Mandela. President Nelson Mandela's daughter and an executive with the government-owned rail company. ESPITE the public airing of tensions, the topic remains sensitive, and South Africans and Americans are reluctant to be quoted on the subject. But one South African executive involved in helping American companies settle here said that at least one company

icans here anymorc "A lot of the black Americans come here expecting to find their brothers and sisters," the executive said. But they don't share a common language or culture or background. All they share is their black skin."

she knows of has decided not to send black Amer-

Moreover, she said. "a lot of South Africans see the black Americans as false affirmative action and there is some resentment for companies that do

The tension is particularly hearthreaking for Americans like Mr. Moses, who say they came here with the best of intentions. We are here to help if we can." he said. "We

want them to succeed. It's a vicarious pleasure

expens estimate that about 1,000 black Americans are working in South Africa. Many have come as representatives of the 300 American companies that have established footholds here. But others come to work for nonprofit groups or as free-lancers.

For many the experience is also a way of getting away from the difficulties of being black in Amer-

Junette Pinkney, a former producer for "The Phil



Julia Wilson says newcomers have to be willing to listen and learn; for Charles Moses, black Americans have been 'misled and abused by our South African brothers and sisters.'



Donahue Show" who came bere six months ago to | where most people are black has been wooderful.

There is an enormous psychic relief," Ms. Pinkney said. "The American dream never got to be real for me and I'm one of the successful ones. Here, I feel there's the possibility of becoming truly part of this society, of being at home in a way that America will never be home.'

Many black Americans do have positive experiences. And in many cases, their color is seen as

an asset. One panelist on Mrs. Mabuza-Suttle's program acknowledged that despite his anger at black Americans he would still rather do business with them than with American whites - who are

also seen as aggressive and insensitive.

But the panelist, Peter Luvuyo Ntshona, an executive for Iscor, a major steel producer, said that many black Americans came here with an offensive

"There is always a paternalism, a sense that we can show you the way," he said. "Now we have a nation and we want them to treat us with dignity, respect and equality."

Too often, he said, the Americans talk about making a sacrifice by coming to what they call a developing country. Mr. Nishona calls that ludicrons, since most of them live in the fanciest white neighborhoods and have maids and swim-

ming pools.
"They have a wonderful life here," he said.

"They are not suffering."
One problem, say some Americans who have been here many years, is that after the 1994 election hlack Americans came to South Africa eager to do husiness. Four years later, many of the projects they touted have not materialized.

"When they didn't happen, people got disap-pointed and they said African Americans are all talk," said Julia Wilson, a hlack American who moved here in 1994 and started a husiness, Wilson Global Marketing. One of the services she offers is telling American companies how to behave if they want to succeed.

Mzimkulu Malunga, an editor at The Financial Mail, a weekly business magazine, says hlack Americans are seen as wanting black South African partners to pave their way into the market here, only to dump them later. White Americans, said Mr. Malunga, might do the same thing, "But at least they don't come here claiming they are

> The bond that many black Americans feel with Africa is a source of tension. Ms. Wilson said recently she found herself sitting with a group of South African friends watching a hlack American entertainer performing in South Africa. The South Africans began betting on exactly when the entertainer would get tears in her eyes and say, "Oh, I'm borne, I'm home."
>
> S. WILSON says she started to

> laugh. "I could see how to them it looks so strange." Ms. Wilson said. "They say: But you have no family here. You have nobody waiting for you here. You know nothing about the culture. What are you talking about?' But the Americans are serions. They really do feel like they

> Ms. Wilsoo says that being hlack can be an asset if you are willing to listeo and learn. But she has seen some Americans leave totally crushed. One friend she said cut his two-year cootract sbort after nine months.
> "He was practically in tears," Ms. Wilson

> said. "He said, 'If a black man cannot be accepted here, where can be go?'

One especially sensitive point of contection is just how much credit the Americans deserve for hringing apartheid to an end. Mrs. Mabuza-Suttle interspersed ber television program with taped interviews with some prominent black Americans, including one with the Reverend Leoo Sullivan, who described with obvious pride his role in combating apartheid.

Mr. Sullivan devised a set of principles in 1977 for American companies doing business in South Africa; in 1987 be called for corporate withdrawal and disinvestment.

When the tape had finished, a clearly agitated Ms. Mandela said she wanted to make it clear that it was not Americans who were responsible for the end of apartheid, but the children of Soweto who had died in countless demonstrations. The audience, made up largely of South Africans, cheered.

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Yes, I would like to start receiving the International Herold Tribune.

Middle East

U.S. Warns Big Airlines **On Predatory Pricing**

By Matthew L. Wald New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government will levy fines, if necessary, to stop major airlines from driving out new carriers through the use of such unfair practices as flooding the market with cheap sears on competitive routes, the secretary of transportation has annonnced

There is growing concern that the major carriers are willing to lose money - lots of it - in the short run to drive off compention," said the secretary, Rodney Slater, in proposing new guidelines Monday to detect and curb

such practices. Saying that "there are instances in pockets of the country" in which fares have risen to triple or quadruple those on comparable routes. Mr. Slater noted that evidence of those rates "suggests we have unfair and exclusionary-type practices in effect.'

He declined to name specific regional

The Transportation Department's proposal is aimed at curbing "unfair exclusionary practices" — essentially, predatory pricing, although Mr. Slater did not use the term. He said he hoped the policy, laid out in draft form for a 60day public comment period, would take effect in about four months.

The move is a significant departure from the government's 20-year policy of support for airline deregulation. Although the Transportation Department has had the authority to stop unfair practices since it deregulated air travel in 1978, it has never done so.

The sharp rise in business fares recently may have improved the political

climate for such changes.

The Justice Department still investgates airlines for antitrust violations in the more flagrant cases, but Mr. Slater said the new policy would let him block actions that were unfair but did not merit pursuit on antitrust grounds.

Small airlines took heart from the announcement, but the hig airlines said that complying with the policy would be impossible because they would need to get information about small carriers that they are not allowed to ask for.

Although the government's proposal outlines three "patterns of behavior" that would trigger action, all three have undefined terms.

First, the government would intervene if a big airline added so many seats at "very low fares" that it gave up more revenue "than would a reasonable alternative" - presumably some action besides slashing prices. An investigation would also be

triggered if a major airline cut fares or matched a new airline's fares and added more seats than the new courant's capacity, cuting its own revenue more "than would a reasonable alternative." In the third pattern, action would be taken if a major airline matched fares or offered cut-rate fares with more seats than the new carrier sold tickets for, and again, if the major airline lost more revenue than it would if it took other 'reasonable" action.

Mr. Slater would not define "reasonable alternative.

Another problem is that it is hard to determine when a big competitor is dumping" a product — in this case, airline seats - on the market below

WEATHER

cost. Ticket pricing, as millions of air travelers have discovered to their dismay, is already divorced from costs. Mr. Slater said he hoped that the

threat of investigation and potential fines would be enough to stop the anticompetitive practices.

Senior staff members at the Transportation Department said the fine would probably be \$1,100 a day. The department will pursue cases based on formal or informal complaints, or on any other information it gathers. The guidelines bave already drawn

fire from the big airlines, which argue that any move by the federal government to limit their flexibility in what markets they can serve, with what volume of seats and at what price amounts to reregulation. The proposal would mainly affect the seven major airlines: United, US Airways, Continental, Delta, North-

here: More on west, American and TWA.
Elliott Seiden, a spokesman for
Northwest Airlines, which has been accused by smaller airlines and some elected officials of unfair practices competing with two small carriers in its service area, said that the guidelines were "unwise and unconstitutional."

A major carrier could not know how many seats a small competitor was offering, he said, or how many tickets it was selling. "We can't find out without mak. ing a phone call, and that would violate the Sherman Antitrust Act," he said.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Dusseldorf Reopens Burned-Out Terminal

DUSSELDORF (Renters) - The main terminal of this city's international airport reopened Tuesday after being badly damaged by a fire that killed 17 people two years ago.
Terminal A now includes such stat

of-the-art safety features as 2,000 auto-matic fire alarms, 150 additional fire alarms, eight fire-reporting systems and six smoke-clearing systems.

Greek Transport Chaos

ATHENS (AP) — Worker protests crippled air travel and mass transit Tuesday in a beavy salvo against government efforts to restructure the struggling state carrier Olympic Airways.

A 24-hour strike hy Olympic employees forced the cancellation of 47 international and 11 domestic flights. more than half the total scheduled routes. Meanwhile, heavy fog closed Macedonia Airport in Salonika. And public transport workers in Athens called a four-hour sympathy strike.

All Nipport Airways of Japan gron' ded two international flights Tuesda because of a strike. Ten more flights, will be canceled Wednesday if the pilot and flight crew strike cootinues. (AFP)

Walt Disney World, in Florida, will raise its theme park ticket prices by more than \$2 this month when it opens Animal Kingdom, its largest theme park. The cost of a one-day pass rises to \$44.52 including tax, or \$2.38 more than the current price.

Tammy Wynette, Country Star, 55, Dies

By Jon Pareles New York Times Service

Tammy whose 1968 hit "Stand By Your Man" established her was more turbulent, and less as a queen of country music. stable, than the lifelong attachdied Monday in her sleep at ments her songs promised. her home in Nashville, Ten-

Miss Wynene had a history hlood clot.

In her 25-year career, she recorded more than 50 alhums and sold more than 30 million recordings. "Stand By Your Man' made her Alabama. synonymous with the role of a long-suffering hut determinedly loval wife, holding the family together even when her husband strayed. Her voice had a husky cen-

like an Everywoman with unexpected reserves of strength and affection. With Billy Sherrill as producer, she also became the standard-bearer of Wagoner's syndicated coun-

Nashville sound, with pedal she moved to Nashville and ation as female vocalist of the steel guitars underlined by auditioned for Mr. Sherrill, year in 1969 and 1970. Wynene, 55, strings and backup choruses.

B hit 'Stand By Miss Wynette's own life

> She was born in 1942 in rural Itawumba County, Mis-Nine" sissippi, named Wynene "Your drawn to music and learned to play guitar before she became a teenager, when she joined her mother in Birmingham,

A month before her high school graduation, in 1959, she was married for the first time, to Euple Byrd. They were divorced in 1965.

In 1963, she had enrolled in by day as a beautician and at night as a singer in clubs, she began appearing on local television and then on Porter

ter. with melancholy balanced beautician's school in Tu-hy determination; she sounded pelo, Mississippi. Working trating on weepers about and uneoding love.

who signed her to Epic Records. He renamed her Tammy Wynette and recorded some honky-tonkflavored songs, including the ballad "Apartment No. and the up-tempo Your Good Girl's Gonna of health problems. The cause Pugh, and was raised by her Go Bad." her first Top 10 hit, of death was believed to be a grandparents on a farm where in 1967. "I Don't Wanna

she picked cotton. She was Play House" reached No. 1 on the country charts and brought her a Grammy award in 1967. She married a second time, to Don Chapel, but the marriage lasted only a year. The three No. I hits that

Miss Wynene had in 1968—
"Stand By Your Man,"
"Take Me To Your World"
and "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" established both her public holding a marriage together

'Stand By Your Man," written by Miss Wynette and Mr. Sherrill, sold more than 2

an elaborately orchestrated try television show. In 1966, the Country Music Associ-

Through the 1970s, she recorded duets with Mr. Jones, continuing after they were di-vorced in 1975. They had No. I country hits with "Golden Ring" and "Near You." In 1976, she married and

divorced Michael Tomlin. Two years later, she married George Richey, with wbom she wrote the song "Til I Can Make It on My Own." In 1992, she had an un-

expected international hit when she sang "Justified and Ancient" with the KLF, an English electronic dance group. The song reached No. I in 18 countries.

She became a part of the 1992 presidential campaign after Hillary Clinton, stressing that her support of her husband was more than routine, told an interviewer, "I'm not sitting here like some little woman standing by my man like Tammy Wynette. Miss Wynette demanded,

million copies. As the song and received, an apology. She moved from country radio said Mrs. Clinton had "ofstations to the pop Top 20, she fended every true country mu-married George Jones, the sic fan' and every person who country singer who had been has "made it on their own with her idol. The recording no one to take them to a White brought her a second Grammy House." She later performed as well as recognition from at a Clinton fund-raiser.

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWea



North America

North America

Rain will each the Northeast and Middle Attentic
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elements of travel. The Teading Hotels of the World

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travelers have discovered to the may, is already divorced from continuation and the threat of investigation and the fines would be enough to stop the tractices.

competitive practices.

Senior staff members at the life parameter said the life. Senior staff members at the leading portation. Department said the leading would probably be \$1,100 at the department will pursue cases be formal or informal complaints any other information it gathers.

The guidelines have already The guidelines have already to fire from the big airlines, which

that any move by the federal gother to limit their flexibility in what he with what he they can serve, with what volume seats and al what price amounts regulation. The proposal would a affect the seven major ardines to US Asways. Continental Delta. west. American and TWA

Ellion Seiden, a spokesma Northwest Airlines, which has be cused by smaller arrines and elected officials of unfair practice competing with two small came. service area, said that the god-were "unwise and unconstituted. A major carrier could not know

many seats a small competitor a fering, he said, or how many lickes, selling. "We can't find out within ing a phone call, and that would the Sherman Antitrust Act," he s

TRAVEL UPDAT

Dusseldorf Reopen Burned-Out Termin

DUSSELDORF (Reuters) main terminal of this cite sments airport reopened Tuesday afters badly damaged by a fire that the

people two years ago Terminal A new include what of the art salely feature, as 100 m matic fire alarms, (50) addoord i Harms, eight fire-reporting stems.

Greek TransportCha

ATHENS AF - Worker protrippled at these and mass in Puesday in a news who again, enturent effects to restructure the g glang state carrier (1) mps Amm A 24-nour surks by Olympu. skyees forced the cancellation a nternational and demestic fig there than halt me total sched pures. Meanwhile, heavy log de Cauciuma Airre in Silonka i sublic transpor workers in Analled a four-hour sympathy sinks

4ll Nippon Airwayser lapages ied two interrusts and thehis Test recause of a strike. Ten more list Hearing more than the pure call be concelled Weinerday after tiel flight area strike continues it

Watt Disney World, in Florida gives the theme hark notet pass wire than \$2 this mooth when up ahirmat Kingdom as largest it 31k. The cort of controls pains 44.52 including tax, or \$2.88 ian the current pro-?

North America

Big Airling Y Pricing Clinton Seeks Better Start in Africa, and France Understands Why A Certainly it's not the view of the present A We can't work with the government A working with some

spoke with IHT editors and reporters, and fol-lowing are excerpts of his remarks about U.S. assistance to African countries.

Q. Why is Washington putting such emphasis on Africa oow?

A. The Clinton administration has had to deal with a lot of crises in Africa, starting with the unhappy chapter in Somalia. That had repercussions across American foreign policy. against hopes for nation-building and similar approaches to stability. Now there seems to be

an opportunity for a better start.
We're hearing new messages from some new leaders. They want to take charge of their own security to a large extent. They encourage reing about aid for trade. gional integration. Their ecocomies have gional integration. Their ecocomies have The president wanted to spotlight this po-achieved levels of growth that are attracting tential, especially for U.S. audiences, as he

exports and imports. It offers hope for dealing pledged to increase U.S. aid to Africa to a with episodic crises and for development leading eventually to investment and a larger place for Africa in the global trading system. Q. Is that a version of the call for replacing aid

with trade? A. It always annoys me to hear that misrepresentation. It's never been accurate because,

frankly, even though some countries such as Uganda and Ghana are good prospects for investment, most African countries' capacity to trade is still so low that it's very difficult to offer them, through trade alone, the incentives they need for economic reform. One needs obviously to develop the economies so that they can take advantage of their own potential, so we're talk-

historic high. At the very end of his trip, the president visited with some U.S. staff, very emotionally, and he said "This has been the most moving experience in my life." So he is going to follow through.

Q. Does increased U.S. attention to Africa

reassure or worry other countries with traditional ties there — for example, France?

A. French officials welcome the U.S. atten-

tion, but there are other voices. My counterpart in the previous government says that it is a zerosum game, that any U.S. initiative is a loss for French influence. Some French commentators portray the president's trip as commercial imperialism. In fact, if there is economic growth in Africa, everyooe is going to benefit: Traditional business relationships will probably be reinforced and market shares won't change much.

president's trip coincides with some rethinking in France. The French are not going to have the same military presence as in the past so some of the cooperative efforts we're engaged in, such as training Africans to provide for their own security, are much more interesting in Paris

The French see the African leaders' desire to be less aid-dependent, and they know that Africans, while they may want to maintain their French ties, also need to develop ties to neighboring countries, who may be English- or Portuguese-speaking. I sense a more sincere feeling in Paris that if these countries are going to to help them. All these points create a consensus between the United States and France that oever existed before.

Q. How about the Congo, ex-Zaire? Is your

Q. So suspicioo is a minority view in agency working there despite human rights France?

A. We can't work with the government because of a debt issue left over from the Mobutu regime, but we're working with some local ageocies.

It's a tremendously important country. It has enough potential hydroelectric power to supply the whole south of the continent. So we have to be aware of the pitfalls but look for oppor-

Under Mobutu, despite the fact that billions in dollars of U.S. and other foreign aid weot into the country, the per capita income fell from about \$1,000 to well under \$200.

It demonstrates something that people in my agency are focusing on: We often used to turn a blind eye to abuses in recipient countries bebecome more democratic, we have an obligation cause during the Cold War we thought we had

to. It gave foreign aid a bad name. Clearly, we cannot continue investing in countries that aren't good development part-

There's More on Starr's Plate Than Pursuit of the President

Private Work for Muffler Dealer Competes For His Time

By Ruth Marcus ashington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The independent attack Mr. Starr. counsel, Kenneth Starr, is rethinking plans to make a complicated and time-consuming appeals court argument for a private law client io May, the same month he will be trying to finish his report to Congress on the inves-

tigation of President Bill Clintoo.
"No final decision has yet been reached about whether Ken will argue the matter,' said his parmer, Jay Lefkowitz. "It's a very important matter, and it's something I know

he is discussing with his client."

Mr. Starr had been planning to appear before the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in Richmond, Virginia, oo May 5 in an intricate dispute between the Meineke Discount Muffler Shops and its franchisees, who argue that the muffler company defranded them of millions of dollars that were supposed to go for advertising. Mr. Starr is representing Meineke and asking the appeals court to overturn a nearly \$400 million judgment against

Bot the argument comes just as Mr. Starr and his staff in the independent counsel's office are fighting the clock to prepare a report for Congress oo their investigation of Mr. Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky matter. Sources close to the investigation said Mr. 'Starr's goal was to complete that report by the

Until this week, Mr. Starr seemed intent on doing the argument. Charles Cooper, the lawyer for the franchise owners opposing Meineke and a longtime friend of Mr. Starr's from their days in the Reagan Justice De-partment, said he would devote about 100 hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to preparing for me argument. The hours to prepare the intended to argue the case."

than \$1 million annually — is permitted by the counsel, Lawrence Walsh. "It creates an issue

By Steven Erlanger

New York Times Service

battle of competing letters on the Middle East has broken out

in Congress, reflecting ten-sions among American Jewish

groups about the Clinton ad-

ministration's attempt to re-

Letters urging President Bill

vive a peace effort in trouble.

Clinton not to confront Israel

publicly with a U.S. proposal to break the deadlock were

ators and about 150 of the 435

Those letters prompted two

-- signed by \$1 of the 100 sen-

representatives in Congress.

counter-letters, both of which

praised Mr. Clinton and called

on him to continue the dif-

What might seem to be rel-

atively banal communica-

tions have taken on resonance

because the first letters be-

the American Israel Public - Affairs Committee, one of the

Washington, and have

angered some administration

When the committee tried

to get an endorsement of the

letters from the Conference of

Presidents of Major Jewish

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in the IHT.

Herald Eribune

officials and legislators.

ficult work of peacemaking.

WASHINGTON - A

Mideast Point, Counterpoint

dovish Jews, who are less sup-portive of Prime Minister Ben-

Committee of creating a sense

of crisis and of not consulting

adequately with other Jewish

organizations, a charge that

said Mr. Clinton was being

pushed hard to go public with

the American proposal, which they said would unnecessarily

strain relations with Israel and

the committee, Howard Kohr,

said: "The issue of U.S. pres-

sure is far from imaginary.

People are pushing the pres-

ident to go off course to a

dead end. Our goal is to sup-

the American Israel Public

Affairs Committee, one of the most powerful lobbies in powerful lobbies in the most powerful lobbies in

down and lasts eight days.

Organizations in a tense meet- of Connecticut, and Connie sition."

change the American role.

committee officials reject.

They accused the Ameri-

jamin Netanyaho of Israel.

U.S. Approach Splits Congress and Jewish Groups

Starr's three and a half year tenure as a special prosecutor, and the White House has seized on the Meineke case as the latest opening to

Two senior White House aides, Rahm Emanuel and Paul Begala, raised the issue on the Sunday talk shows, arguing that Mr. Starr had no standing to accuse the White House of trying to delay matters when he has been occupied with outside legal work. "I un-derstand that he thinks he's unaccountable and that the taxpayers are able to pay him full time for part-time performance, but the fact of the matter is Ken Starr took three years to conclude Vince Foster committed suicide and he's saying everyone else is slow-walking — that's chutzpah,' Mr. Emanuel said, Mr. Foster was a deputy counsel at the White House in Mr. Clinton's first term.

Mr. Starr's defenders pointed out that he has given up arguing several important cases for his law firm, including one before the Supreme Court, because of his independent counsel duties. And they say that Mr. Starr manages to juggle those dual roles in part because, as an appellate litigator, he can prepare for those cases on airplane rides or in botel mores.

In addition, they said, Mr. Starr works prodigious bours. "He probably works an average 14 to 16 hours a day," said a deputy independent counsel, Jackie Bennett. Since the allegations involving Ms. Lewinsky arose, Ms. Bennett said, "he's been in the office virtually every single day — and that includes

Some independent observers questioned whether it would be appropriate for Mr. Starr to argue the Meineke case while he is also occupied with a matter that could determine

it's a really bad idea, particularly at this Mr. Starr's private legal work - he has stage," said John Barrett, a St. John's Unicootinued to maintain his law practice at the versity law professor John Barrett and former firm of Kirkland & Ellis and has earned more prosecutor for the Iran-contra independent independent counsel stante. But the extent of for people who want to criticize him. It creates his practice and the nature of his clients have an appearance of less than vigorous purbeen subjects of controversy throughout Mr.

in, Democrat of Michigan,

wrote a letter to Secretary of

State Madeleine Albright,

praising ber efforts and urging

and without public pressure.
Mr. Levin's letter was also

signed by Senator Thomas

Daschle of South Dakota, the

Mrs. Albright responded by promising that negoti-ations would continue in

Representative Samuel

Connecticut, wrote his own

letter praising Mr. Clinton's

efforts. That letter, signed by

31 representatives, including

15 of the House's 24 Jewish

members, was sent to the

to feel unappreciated. But

sign the first letter.

ing Thursday, the lobby was criticized by more liberal and In response, Senator Carl Lev-

can Israel Public Affairs her to continue them in private

ommittee officials reject.

The American Israel Public Joseph Biden, Democrat of

The executive director of Gejdenson, Democrat of

port him in the sound path he president Monday.

eovoy, Dennis Ross, back to the region after Passover, which begins on Friday at sun-

The original Senate letter given Jewish history, there

was sponsored by Senator are people who are bound to

Joseph Lieberman, Democrat be nervous in periods of tran-

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Affairs Committee officials Delaware, who had refused to

POLITICAL NOTES



SHOPPING FOR VOTES - Ralph Waite, right, a television actor, campaigning in Palm Springs, California, for the congressional seat held by the late Sonny Bono, whose widow, Mary, is running against Mr. Waite, a Democrat.

Communion Confusion

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton took Holy Communioo during a Mass in South Africa during his 12-day trip to Africa in late March at the invitation of the local priest, White House officials said in response to criticism that giving Communion to Mr. Clinton, a Baptist, violated

told White House staff members before Mr. Clintoo's visit to his Soweto church that Conference of Bishops, that communion was open to non-Catholics."

communion in certain special circum-stances, and the Vatican has requested clarification of that policy.

Explaining that he was trying to address confusion among Catholics caused by the news of the incident, Cardinal John O'Connor, the archbishop of New York, said in a sermon last Sunday: "Some undonbtedly believe that if one has enough prestige or money, anything goes." The church, he said, should not contribute to such perceptions.

soever to do with the persoo of the president

or his wife or any of the allegations con-cerning any alleged behavior." (NYT) Ferraro Forges Ahead

NEW YORK — Geraldine Ferraro has announced that she has raised \$1.35 million for her U.S. Senate campaign in the nearly Roman Catholic doctrine. three months since she bounded into the Barry Toiv, a White House spokesman, said the priest, Father Mohlomi Makobane, recling in cootributions demonstrated the

vigor of her candidacy. But Ms. Ferraro, a Democrat, has still 'this was the policy of the South African collected less than the three other contenders for Senate, including the Repubor such tentent policy exists, the Southern African bishops declared last week. In January, however, the bishops did issue rules that allow non-Catholics to receive communion in certain special and the fund-raising pace that she set in her failed 1992 Senate campaign. The other Democrats are Mark Green, the New York City public advocate and Democrate York City public advocate, and Representative Charles Schumer. (NYT)

The House majority leader, Dick Armey, on President Bill Clinton: "I believe he's a shameless person. "If it were me that had

documented personal conduct along the lines of the president's, I would be so filled with shame that I would resign. This president Cardinal O'Connor prefaced his remarks won't do that. His basic credo in life is, 'I will by saying that they had 'nothing what- do whatever I can get away with.' '(AP)

Away From Politics

• The majority of the 997 people dis-charged from the military last year because of their sexual orientation declared their bomosexuality in order to leave the armed forces early, according to a Pentagon study to be released this week. (WP)

In a move aimed at ridding housing complexes in the District of Columbia of pit ing and the federal government have sued bulls, officials will begin evicting pets from him for more than \$14 million. (AP)

55 public housing communities. The campaign will enforce a "no pet" clause in tenants' rental agreements.

 Fearing that Terry Nicbols, who was convicted of conspiracy in the worst terrorist attack oo U.S. soil, may sell his story for profit, victims of the Oklahoma City bomb-

Latest Vitamin Advice For Would-Be Mothers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Any woman who might become pregnant should either eat specially fortified foods or take a vitamin supplement of folic acid every day to protect against birth defects, a panel of experts said Tuesday.

Also, everyone over age 50 should eat a bowl of fortified cereal every day or take a supplement of Vitamin B-12, a outrieot important for making blood cells but one that declines with age, the report by the private Institute of Medicine

But the review of complex B vitamins - including folic acid, B-12, B-6, thiamin, riboflavin and niacin - cautions against taking huge doses.

The panel said there was not sufficient evidence that large doses could reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer.

Priest Who Led Rebels In Colombia Is Dead

BOGOTA - Manuel Perez, 54, a Spanish-born Roman Catholic priest who became the legendary leader of Colombia's second-largest rebel group, has died, the

Father Perez died of chronic hepatitis in the northeastern department of Santander in February, according to a communiqué transmitted Monday on the National Liberation Army's clandestine Radio Patria Libre and later broadcast on commercial radio stations.

"Our beloved and unfor-14," said Nicolas Rodriguez, the group's military strategist. Mr. Rodriguez gave the canse of death as hepatitis B.

Mr. Rodriguez, who will now take over as the rebels' snpreme commander, said Father Perez had been buried in the mountains of northeast Colombia close to the spot where 18 men, inspired by the Cuban Revolution, took no arms against the state in 1964,

calling themselves the National Liberation Army, or ELN.
His death came in the same month the rebel movement and government representa-tives signed a secret deal in Madrid to bold tentative peace talks in Colombia this year. deal last week, accusing the government of "political opportunism," after details of the conflict."

pact were leaked to the press. Father Perez, originally from the Aragoo region in Spain, came to Colombia in 1968 to work as a priest in impoverished communities and joined the rebel group in 1969 to put his Christian-Marxist ideals into practice.

He became the group's leader

in the late 1970s.

"For us peace and love are the basic values by which a society should live," Father Perez said in one of his last interviews. "But events have forced us to take part in a war of liberation."

Manuel Perez died on Feb. decimated in an army attack in northwest Colombia in Perez's leadership it grew from a force of 60 fighters to a

5,000-member army. Though much smaller than the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the National Liberation Army has sbown a devastating capacity for sabotage, specializing in attacks on the country's oil infrastructure and in kidnapping employees of foreign multinationals.

A statement isseed Monday by the presidential palace called for all sides in Colombia's civil conflict to take part

in a fresh drive for peace. "The death of 'The Priest' The rebels pulled ont of the Manuel Perez, the palace

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about it in TribTech.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Mahathir Calls Jail Justified For Politician

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR - The prime minister Tuesday defended an 18-month prison term given to an opposition member of Parliament after the punishment was criticized by an international human-rights group.

"When you make a baseless allegation, the law must take its course," Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad

said at a political meeting.

He said justice should be meted out fairly to opposition members as well as government politicians.

Last week, the Court of Appeals sentenced Lim Guan Eng, deputy secretary-general of the Democratic Action Party and a member of Parliament for 12 years, to an 18-month prison term for publishing a pamphlet in 1995.

Mr. Lim had questioned the government's decision not to press statutoryrape charges against a former state minister in Malacca. He also asked why the schoolgirl in the case was detained after the scandal broke but the minister was

Amnesty International has argued that Mr. Lim's case was politically motivated. It also said the court's decision eroded freedom of speech in Malaysia.

But Mr. Mahathir was quoted as saying that these allegations were unfair and aimed at hranding Asian governments as

Mr. Mahathir said Malaysian courts often imposed stiffer penalties on govemmeot politicians to demoostrate that the legal system was unbiased.

"It has occurred that when an opposition member is found guilty, the sentence is lenient," Mr. Mahathir was quoted as saying in the Tuesday edition

of The Sun newspaper.
"On the other hand, if it is against a member of the government, as if to prove the freedom of the judiciary, a heavy sentence is imposed," he said.

Burmese Bar U.S. Official

BANGKOK - Burma's military government

will not grant the U.S. representative to the United

Nations permission to visit as loog as its leaders are barred from entering America, a government

spokesman said Tuesday.

The delegate, Bill Richardson, had hoped to

visit Burma, as part of a South Asian tour be-

ginning Saturday that includes Bangladesh, India,

spokesman who spoke on condition of anonym-

Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Over Decree by Clinton



Heads of leading banks attending a parliamentary hearing Tuesday on Japan's credit crunch. They said Tokyo's recent injection of \$15 billion into the financial system would allow them to make loans.

The 2 Koreas Agree on Beijing as Site of Talks

SEOUL — North and South Korea on Tuesday edged closer to holding their first hilateral talks since 1994

South Korea had responded that it would prefer that the talks be held on the Korean Peninsula, but the North

'The basic agreement between Koreas be held April 11 in Beijing to soon as possible, and for that, talks Koreas would be kept separate.

BRIEFLY

between North and South must be held soon," Mr. Kim was quoted as saying. He added that South Korea "has said it will carry out interchange and cooperation based on a policy of sep-

arating business and politics. "If that is truly for the unification of our nation," he said, "then we will face it with generosity and not be caught up in the format."

President Kim Dae Jung of South

Korea has made it clear since the start of his term that inter-Korean relations would be expanded. He said husiness that direct talks between the two North and South must be carried out as and political issues between the two

JAPAN: Central Bank Scandal Heats Up

Continued from Page 1

society," said Yoshifumi Nishikawa, president of Sumitomo Bank, which has been accused of entertaining a Finance Ministry official to learn the timing of bank inspections, "Because it has been a custom for a long time, entertainment continued without much reflection."

Others said they were "sorry to cause a disturbance" and said they took the scandals "very solemnly." The bankers also called the credit crunch "regretful," adding that they would do their best to increase lending to small companies.

The bankers stock to a traditional script of vague words of apology and humble bows. But while such a performance may have won forgiveness in the past, it ap-peared to do little to win over a public exasperated by a falling economy, weak banks and the bribery scandals.

Committee members booed the bankers' responses, according to the news media. Evening newspapers promptly criticized the bankers' responses as insincere and inadequate. The Mainichi oewspaper complained that all the bankers said the identical things, even repeating the same phrases. The Yominri newspaper charged that the banks have, so far, failed to deal decisively with the bribery scandals.

Meanwhile, debate heated np over the need for tax cuts to revive economic growth. Taku Yamasaki, policy chief of the governing Liberal Democratic Party. questioned how effective income tax cuts would be at stimulating the economy, although he said he was not flatly opposed in tax cuts.

Mr. Hayami told Parliament that he favored corporate tax cuts. And on Tnesday, Liberal Democrats in the upper house embraced income tax cuts.

Koji Omi, director-general of the Ecoomy is "stalling and in a severe situation." Analysts predict that the agency's monthly economic assessment, due Friday, will be pessimistic, increasing pressure on the government

But Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto denied that the economy was about

to collapse. "If you look at our overseas assets and foreign reserves, it is hard to say that Japan is on the brink of col-lapse," Mr. Hashimoto told Parliament He assured legislators, however, that he would "seriously" consider what steps

to take to bolster the economy.

Although Mr. Hashimoto did not give details, the Nikkei stock index rose 272.73 points, closing at 15,978.72, and the dollar fell in Tokyo to 134.20 yen, from 135.05, amid growing expectations of concrete action.

Buddhists Seek Way To Gain Adherents, **But Feuds Abound**

The Associated Press

KYOTO, Japan — In a rare meeting of Asian Buddhist leaders, the Dalai Lama and more than a dozen other holy men vowed Tuesday to bolster the sag-

ging popularity of their religion.

The Buddhists from 15 Asian countries gathered in this ancient Japanese capital for the two-day conference, held to coincide with the celebration Wed nesday of the Flower Festival, or the birthday of Buddha.

The meeting underscored an identity crisis facing the ancient religion, which in many countries is suffering from a poorly trained clergy and is losing its following to more aggressive Christian nissionaries.

A long history of squabbling between Buddhism's many sects has also taken its toll on the religioo's appeal — and that was apparent Tnesday.

None of Japan's main Buddhist sects

nomic Planning Agency, told reporters were represented at the conference. A that recent data show the Japanese econnew Japanese sect, the Nemhutsushu, was co-host of the meeting and refused to invite the major sects.

Isla Ready to Pari

mRescared the arm

Death Periodic

"I didn't even know the Dalai Lama was coming until the other day," said Junna Nakada, abbot of the Daigo-ji, one of Kyoto's major mainstream temples.
"It is very disappointing that we were not invited to join."

There are an estimated 300 million Buddhists worldwide, but the oumber has been as a be dealing throughout much

has been oo the decline throughout much of Asia, which has traditionally been the religion's stronghold. The time has come to think of our

inner development," said the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader who is revered by followers as a living incarnation of Buddha.

In a statement ending the conference, the participants — including several supreme patriarchs, the highest priests in their countries - called for greater efforts to spread the word of Buddha.

"Buddhism is on the decline in South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan," said the Malaysian high priest, K. Sri Dammananda Maha Thera. "Every day we are losing our youth to Christianity."

Only about 1 perceot of the population

of India, the birthplace of Buddhism, is Jan. Buddhist. Political suppression has taken a severe toll on worship in such places as China and Southeast Asia.

discuss fertilizer aid and other issues.

Beijing as the venue.

Oo Saturday, Pyongyang suggested

sociated Press.

after Seoul said it would accept Beijing as its preferred site.

The standard of the standard urday in Beijing," said Park Won latioo that the talks would be held when Hwa, spokesman for the South Korean it reported that Kirn Yong Sun, sec-Foreign Ministry, He said Seoul would retary of North Korea's Central Comaccept Pyongyang's request to set mittee of the Workers' Party, had welcomed dialogue.

Tuesday on corruption charges and amassing un-explained wealth, Indian oews agencies said. Surface Transport Minister R. Muthiah denied the charges and said he would not resign from Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's cahinet. But the case was an embarrassment to Mr.

Vajpayee, who had campaigned against the chronic corruption that tainted the governments of his A court in the southern city of Madras charged Mr. Muthiah with making illegal gains during his

1991-94 term as the speaker of the state legislature in Tamil Nadu before his party lost power.

The court rejected Mr. Muthiah's petitioo to

dismiss the case. The minister had argued that anti-corruptioo laws for civil servants did oot apply to him since in Pakistan's southern Sind Province and in east-

THE INTERMARKET

Bomb in Pakistan Kills 5

KARACHI, Pakistan - A bomb ripped through a passenger bus parked at a gas station Tuesday, setting the vehicle aftre, killing five people and injuring 20 others, the police and ambulance attendants said.

The bombing at Sukran, north of the Sind provincial capital, Karachi, took place hours after a bomh exploded in the town of Khairpur, also in Sind Province, killing ooe persoo and injuring

There was oo claim of responsibility for the bombings. In recent mooths several bombs have exploded

the speaker of the assembly is not classified as a public servant.

(AP) of Pakistan's 140 million people.

(AP)

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BUSINESS OPPS

"Mr. Richardsoo is oot outrightly refused permission to visit Myanmar," said a government India Minister Arraigned

The UN ambassador could eoter Burma, also ernmeot, formed three weeks ago, was arraigned

known as Myanmar, if the ban oo the country's

leaders eotering America was "either waived or lifted," the spokesman said in a fax to The As-

It was helieved that Mr. Richardson had

Mr. Richardson's staff was not available for

In October 1996, President Bill Clintoo issued

NEW DELHI - A minister in India's gov-

an executive order barring members of the mil-

itary government and their families from visiting

changed his plans to visit Burma after learning of

the country's unwillingness to grant a visa.

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Buddhists Seek To Gain Adheren But Feuds About

The Associated Piess KYOTO, Japan in a later of Asian Buddhisi leaders, then a dies. Lama and more than 2 dozen & men vowed Tuesday to bolder ging popularity of their religion

tries gathered in this ancient capital for the two-day conference to coincide with the celebrate

The meeting under cored as crisis facing the ancient religion in many countries to suffering poorly trained clergy and is be following to more aggressive Q A long history of squabbling

Buddhism's many seets has the its toll on the religion's appar that was apparent Tuesday None of Japan', main Budde were represented at the confe new Japanese sect. the Nembe was co-nost of the meeting and

e sto invite the major icels "I didn't even know the Dak was coming until the other on Junia Naturda, above of the bay of Kyoto's major management Age is sent questioning that not invited to join

There are an estimated in Buddhists words as to his the chas been on the desire threely of Asia, which are traditionally religion's strongward The time of the last Lame the enter The Total

who is revers to the temperature incompliant of St. June In a statement enemy traces the participant - medicine theme partition of helping medical countries - Alice or the forts to spread the world be Kores, Maria Tana

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THE INTERNATE! CONTRACT on PER

EUROPE

medianse. "If you look at the assets and foreign reserves to assets and foreign reserves to assets and foreign reserves to assets and foreign reserves to assets and foreign reserves to say that Japan is on the bridge to the assisted legislators, however the assisted legislators, however the would "seriously" to however the bolster the economy. Although Mr. Hashimoto did to the control of the delar fell in Tokyo to 134. Approve New Prime Ministe Prime Ministe

By Daniel Williams . Wushington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin used a hard sell on Tuesday to try to persuade some of Russia's top political leaders to approve his youthful candidate for prime minister, but the representanives were in a rejectionist mood.

Mr. Yeltsin met with 20 leaders in a

Mr. Yellsin met with 20 leaders in a Kremlin palace and scolded and joked with them in hopes of gaining approval in a vote set for Friday. The president dismissed the previous government two weeks ago and named Energy Minister Sergei Kiriyenko as prime minister.
"We have spent two weeks without a government," Mr. Yelisin said, "It is

very serious, of course. If it continues, we will lose out even more."

nesday of the Flower Festive.

Bureaucracy and legislative activity in Bureaucracy activity in Bureaucracy act wrangling over approval of a new prime minister would delay pressing chores: Unpaid wages owed to state workers are piling up and key tax reform legislation is pending. The delays come at a time when the economy has slowed due to uncertainnies over government finances and falling prices for oil exports.

Just how far Parliament will take its objections to Mr. Kiriyenko is unclear. If they reject him three times, Mr. Yeltsin can dismiss the legislature and



Gennadi Zyuganov, Communist leader, left, the nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky and Mayor Yuri Luzhkov of Moscow gathering with 17 other political chiefs at the Kremlin on Tuesday for talks with President Yeltsin.

call for new elections. Many commentators believe that the State Duma, the lower house of Parliament, does not want to risk a national vote.

his party and other factions be invited to design a new economic policy before they would approve a prime minister. The leader of the Communists, Gennadi Zyuganov, said that Mr. Kiriyenko

Daniel Daianu as finance minister,

Grigori Yavlinsky, who heads the liberal Yahloko hloc, said he was opposed to

BRIEFLY

Vasile Names Romania Cabinet

BUCHAREST — Prime Minister-designate Radu

Mr. Vasile named Sorin Dimitriu as privatization min-

Vasile of Romania announced a cahinet Tuesday, keeping

ister, and Ioan Muresan as reform minister. The ministers.

both Christian Democrats, replace technocrats brought

into former Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea's cahinet in a

was unacceptable and demanded that Mr. Kirivenko and asked for cahinet positions for his party. Our Home Is Russia, the party of the ousted prime minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, demanded cahinet seats in return for votes supporting Mr.

France-U.S. Airline Pact Finally Ready, Paris Says Accord to Replace One Canceled in 1992

Agence France-Presse

PARIS— France and the United States agreed Tuesday on the terms of a new, five-year pact governing air transportation between the countries, a For-

eign Ministry spokesman said.
The accord, which is 10 go into effect on June 2, will expand the number of flights that airlines of each country can make to the other.

It will provide for "gradual and halanced widening of the possibilities enjoyed by transporters" from the countries, but il is not an "open skies" agreement, said the spokesman, Yves

Doutriaux. Mr. Doutriaux said.
He said that Dominique Perreau, director of economic and financial affairs at the French Foreign Ministry, and Joel Spiro, U.S. undersecretary of state for transportation, had signed a memorandum of understanding in Paris.

A final agreement incorporating the terms of the memorandum will be concluded at the ministerial level in the next

few weeks, Mr. Doutriaux said. The accord will replace one that dated from 1946. France terminated that pact in 1992. Since then, the countries' air links have been governed by agree-

ments renewed every six months.

Air France will be a major beneficiary of the agreement, which will allow it to formalize their alliances with the U.S. carriers Continental Airlines and Delta Air Lines, allowing the marketing of one another's flights, a practice

ances between U.S. and French airlines in the absence of a long-term accord.

The arrangement is not an open skies deal, Mr. Doutriaux said, because it includes a five-year transition period and does not allow U.S. airlines to board

passengers during stopovers in France.
The United States has concluded open sky agreements with eight European countries: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg. Netherlands and Sweden.

The European Commission, the EU executive, asked those countries last month to explain those accords, questioning the basis for them.

France will inform the commission about the agreement with the United States, even though the French government has questions about the commission's jurisdiction over air traffic.

■ Inquiry Urged on U.K. System

A panel of British legislators called for an inquiry into delays in opening a new air-traffic control center meant to ease congestion in the nation's skies, asserting that the delay could increase the risk of accidents, Bloomberg News reported from London.

A report by the all-party transport committee of the House of Commons criticized the Civil Aviation Authority over its monitoring of the project, which was supposed to have been completed in 1996. The legislators also said it was unclear whether the new system could known as code-sharing, handle growth in air traffic washington had banned such alliabout 5 percent each year. handle growth in air traffic, forecast at

Russia Ready to Build **Iran Research Reactor**

Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The new leader of the nuclear ministry says Russia has proposed huilding a research reactor in Iran in addition to the atomic energy plant under construction there that has drawn protests from Israel and the United States.

The official, Yevgeni Adamov, who replaced Viktor Mikhailov as head of the large and influential ministry last month, said Monday that a contract for the research reactor was drafted in 1996 but still awaited approval by the Russian

Mr. Adamov provided few details, but said that the reactor would meet the requirements of the International Atomic

Russia has rebuffed appeals from the United States and Israel to halt nuclear cooperation with Iran, including the ongoing construction of the plant at Bushehr.

Russia and Iran have denied that the station could provide Iran with know-how or materials to huild nuclear weapons. Iran is far behind in its share of work on the plant, and Russia has said it will take over the entire project. Iran's delays have raised questions about whether additional reactors are feasihle. In March, the United States persuaded Ukraine to drop Work on a planned turbine for the Bushehr plant.

Mr. Adamov said that Russia should huild the

nov said that Russia should huild the reactor to head off U.S. competition if relations improve between Washington and Tehran.

Should we wait for Americans to come in 15 years and huild a research reactor?" he asked. "No. I will try to convince our government and our president that, after Bushehr, we have to do such a joh, too."

UN Report Assails

U.S. Death Penalty

By Elizabeth Olson

New York Times Service GENEVA - The United States has been accused of unfair,

arbitrary and racist use of the death penalty by a United

Nations special investigator in a report at a meeting of the UN

Overriding U.S. objections, the commission voted last

week for the second year in a row to call for a worldwide

moratorium on executions.

The author of the UN report, Bacre Waly Ndiaye, a lawyer

from Senegal, wrote that "race, ethnic origin and economic status appear to be key determinants of who will, and who will

not, receive a sentence of death" in the United States. The

executions worldwide.

He traveled in the United States from Sept. 21 to Oct. 8 last

year and based his findings on meetings with federal officials and officials in New York, Florida, Texas and California, and on visits to death rows. In the 65-page report, Mr. Ndiaye said the found 'a significant degree of unfairness and arbitrariness' in the death penalty's use.

Considerations aside from the crime itself often influenced whether the death sentence was imposed, he said, contending that such considerations included the race and economic level of both the victim and the accused. Mr. Ndiaye urged that the

United States stop executions at least until it can ensure fair

He rejected the argument that there was broad public support for capital punishment in the United States. "In many

countries, mob killings and lynchings enjoy public support as a way to deal with violent crime and are often portrayed as 'popular justice,' 'he wrote. 'Yet they are not acceptable in

any civilized society."

He said that "allegations of racial discrimination in the

imposition of death sentences are particularly serious in south-

ern states such as Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, 'Georgia and Texas, known as the 'death penalty belt.'

Some federal and state officials refused to see him during his visit. Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina,

and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the mission an "absurd UN charade," and urged the State Department not to cooperate. He made his comments in

an angry letter to the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, who later commented that the report would

Mr. Ndiaye's report was issued late Friday, just before the

commission voted, 26 to 13, with others abstaining, to continue its call for a general moratorium on executions, with the

goal of eventually abolishing them globally.
In addition to the United States, the opponents included China, Congo and Sudan. George Moose, the U.S. delegate to the United Nations in Geneva, defended each country's right

to decide this issue through its own democratic process.

Despite the commission's vote, many countries relain the

penalty. A recent report by the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, said that 90 countries bave capital punishment, while

61 have formally abolished it.

Mr. Ndiaye is an independent expert appointed by the commission to investigate extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary

report was presented to the commission last week.

Commission on Human Rights.

and impartial application.

A Social Democrat, Radu Berceanu, was appointed industry and trade minister. Mr. Vasile has until April 15 to win Parliament's approval for the cabinet. (Reuters)

December reshuffle. Mr. Ciorbea quit last week.

Kosovo Rebels Boycott Talks PRISTINA, Yngoslavia -- Ethnic Albanian separatist leaders boycotted peace talks on Kosovo on Tuesday with the Serbian president, Milan Milntinovic, who described

their absence as "irresponsible."
Mr. Milutinovic went to Pristina, the Kosovo capital, as the Serbian Parliament prepared to ratify a national referendum on April 23 on Yugoslavia's refusal to accept international mediation in the Kosovo crisis.

A deadline set hy the hig-powers Contact Group for Yngoslavia to make progress toward a settlement with the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo or face s expires two days later. Albanian sources said their political leaders would discuss their demand for independence only with federal Yugoslavia and with foreign mediation after the withdrawal of special Serbian police units from

Lobotomy Cases Rock Sweden

STOCKHOLM — A total of 4,500 Swedes who were forcibly lobotomized between 1944 and 1963 plan to seek state compensation after a television documentary alleged that children as young as seven underwent the hrain

surgery.

The operation was performed on about 500 people who were not psychiatric patients, including some developmentally impaired children, and thousands of others

Last August it was revealed that Sweden forcibly sterilized more than 60,000 people, mostly women, between 1936 and 1976 as part of a bid to improve Swedes'

genetic make-np.

Meanwhile, Finnish radio reported that 1,500 lobotomies were carried out in Finland, most of them forcibly. between 1946 and 1969, and that as many as 400 of these patients were still alive. The youngest patient was a boy who was 14 at the time of the operation.

Moscow Mayor Assails Latvia

MOSCOW — The mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, urged the Kremlin on Tuesday to impose economic and other sanctions on Latvia to protest an explosion near the Russian embassy in Riga, the Latvian capital.

Mr. Luzhkov said Monday's hlast was 'not a separate incident organized hy nationalists or extremists, but a result of Latvia's state policy."

He told a city government meeting that Russia should "take the most decisive economic and humanitarian steps — excluding force measures — to protect the Russian-speaking populace of Latvia," the Interfax news agency

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Yeltsin Yields to Court on Looted Art

MOSCOW --- President Boris Yeltsin denounced a court ruling as a 'slap in the face' hut indicated Tuesday that he would ahide hy the order and sign a law that will keep World War II "trophy

art" in Russia. The court said Monday that Mr. Yeltsin could not block laws approved twice by Parliament to halt the return of treasures seized by the Red Army in Germany during World War II.

The government and 1 got a major slap in the face from the Constitutional Cour," Mr. Yeltsin said at a meeting with parliamentary leaders Tuesday. "I am still convinced that it was a wrong decision." But "nothing more can be

done about it," he concluded. The presidential press secretary, but blocking any handover.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, added: "The

Kohl, has long been at odds with both war. houses of Parliament over the draft law on booty art, which he says contravenes Moscow's international obligations. The problem has long been an irritant

in Russia's generally warm relations with Germany, Moscow's higgest trading partner and creditor.

Germany said Monday that the hill violated international law.

Under the new law, the return of any individual item of war booty would be subject to parliamentary approval, all

Many Russians agree with the parpresident said that the court's decision is liamentarians, saying that the art should final. It is normal, it should be so in a democratic state."

remain as compensation for Germany's destruction of Russian cultural treasures Mr. Yeltsin, eager to foster close ties and the sufferings of the Soviet Union, with Germany and Chancellor Helmut which lost 27 million people in the Kohl has long been at odds with both war. (AP, Reuters)

■ Swiss Study Incomplete

☐ A family member ☐ An employee

Switzerland said Tuesday that it could give no new data on how much art looted hy the Nazis had found its way into the country until the final results of a research project are published this year, Reuters reported from Bern.

A Swiss newspaper reported Sunday on the study, which it said is looking into claims that far more art than originally thought found its way into private collections and museums in Switzerland.

Herald Tribune THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INTERNATIONAL

A New Piece to the Rwanda Puzzle

Belgian Contradicts French on Downing That Triggered Genocide

Tuesday over the downing four years ago of a French plane carrying the pres-idents of Rwanda and Burundi, which Rwanda. touched off the killing of as many as a million Tutsi by rival Hutu.

Testifying before a French parliamentary committee, a Belgian specialist on Central Africa said he was told separately by Belgian, British and American intelligence services that the Russian-made missiles that brought down the aircraft on April 6, 1994, came from French armories.

But the specialist, Filip Reyntjens, tradicted that of Bernard Debre,

By Kathy Sawyer

of an ancient Martian civilization.

More than 20 years ago, one of the U.S. Viking space probes took a photograph of what appeared to some

people to be a monumental sculpture of a humanoid face, staring skyward from a hilly desert region of Mars

believers and questions. For some, its

stony stare carried intimations of in-

telligeot beings at work on the Red

Planet and ted to fringe suspicions of a

U.S. government conspiracy to keep

On Monday, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

made public on the Internet images

taken during the weekend by the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft, which is orbiting the planet on a mapping mis-

sion. The pictures show the same site

in 10 times the detail and with the sun

shining from the opposite direction, compared with the 1976 image.

cluded again. And the only sculptor at

work there is nature. "There will al-

ways be a few dichards, but I think the

wonder what all the fuss was about,"

It is a mesa, scientists have con-

this knowledge from the public.

known as Cydonia.

Face It: No Life on Mars

Or So Insists NASA, Calling Site Just a Mesa

WASHINGTON — NASA scientists have wiped the "face" off Mars
and with it, they hope, the belief in
some quarters that it was the remnant
for a variety Maria with its scientists have will recognize that this is natural," be added. "You could see
something like it many places on a
flight from Washington to L.A. It's

Since then, the Martian "sphinx" of human features was produced by has generated tabloid headlines, true the combination of light and shadow

which has since taken power in from American stocks of the Russian-

The Rwandan Patriotic Front, or RPF, was then supported by Uganda, which was in turn backed by the United States. "How missiles captured by France from Iraq in February 1991 during the Gulf War could end up in the hands of the RPF is something I cannot explain,"

certainly help find explanations." Mr. Reyntjens's versioo directly con-

Albee, of the California Institute of

Mr. Albee said that the new images, taken from 276 miles (444 kilometers)

above the surface, confirmed previous

NASA analyses indicating that the "face" is actually a natural rock for-

mation, an isolated mesa where ridges

and gullies cast shadows. The illusion

that prevailed when the original Vik-

ing picture was taken, he continued.

the Face" (the name of a recent pub-

lication that compiles 18 research pa-

pers on the issue) plan exhaustive

analysis of the oew images in coming

days and weeks, said Stephen Bassett

of the Paradigm Research Group. It is

a consultant for leading advocates of the theory that the face is the product

of intelligent activity.
"There are many layers to this," he

said. "This is going to be analyzed to death." At this point, he said there's nothing in that photo that "leaps out at

you' to either confirm or eliminate the

He said that if someone had sculpted

a face a mile across, leaving it to weath-

closer to it is not necessarily going to

make it look more like a fa

theory that the feature is artificial.

Groups that believe in the "Case for

not an unusual feature.

'Anyone who has flown in an air-

he said, "but the French government can

Rewers

said circumstantial evidence cleared the PARIS — The mystery deepened on French of involvement and pointed to time of the downing, who said Monday the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front, that the missiles almost certainly came

made weapons.

The debate began last month when Le Figaro said the missiles, SAM-16s, were captured by French troops from Iraq during the Gulf War. The daily paper said its information came from two retired French officers involved in the Rwandan events

The two African heads of state, Jovenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and Cyp-rien Ntaryamira of neighboring Burundi, where killed when at least one of two ground-to-air missiles hit their executive jet as it prepared to land in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. Blame has never officially been determined.

Mr. Reyntjens, who led a public campaign in April 1994 for immediate for-eign intervention in Rwanda, said France, Belgium, Italy and the United States all had troops in Kigali or nearby when the genocide began and could have easily prevented it rather than simply

evacuating their nationals.

He said that when France sent back troops in June "the genocide was nearly

consummated."

"Estimates of the oumber killed range from half a million to 1,1 million," he said. "The French saved 15,000 lives, That's excellent but it was

U.S. Denies French Allegation

too late.

The New York Times reported earlier

from Washington:
Responding to Mr. Debre's assertion that missiles from U.S. stockpiles were used to shoot down a plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in 1994, the United States immediately denied that there was any evidence to support those allegations.

The United States does oot have any knowledge about the origin of the missiles which allegedly shot down the plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi four years ago," said a State Department official, "We categorically reject any snggestion that we would have delivered any missiles to the perpetrators of this hemous

It has never been established who downed the plane, Ethnic Tutsi rebels operating from Uganda had been fighting with forces dominated by the Hutu majority of Rwanda since 1990, and extremist Hutu leaders were unhappy with a peace accord that the French



Yeung Sum, deputy chairman of the Democratic Party, and other party members protesting the new law Tuesday at the Hong Kong legislature.

HONG KONG: Immunity for Beijing

Continued from Page 1

law contradicted Hong Kong's con-stitution, which states that all Beijing offices shall abide by Hong Kong laws except in some defense and foreign

In recent weeks, the reluctance of the authorities in Hong Kong to prosecute China's official press agency, Xinhua, and a local executive with close ties to Beijing has focused attention on whether everyone in Hong Kong is receiving equal treatment under the law.

While the law, which passed by a vote of 46 to 6, is vague about which arms of China's government will be exempt from Hong Kong law, lawyers note that the language emphasizes or-ganizations performing an executive function on behalf of the Beijing gov-ernment. This would include Xinhua or bodies to be set up in the future under the auspices of Chinese ministries. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and the People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong also would be exempt.

Many lawyers say they are con-

A member of the provisional leg-islature, Kennedy Wong, in charge of the committee that considered the hill, urged its passage and said the defin-ition of "state" could be decided later by the courts on a case-by-case basis.

Bot in theory, according to Mr. Chan, the new law could still mean that China's Trade Ministry might set up a standing committee to operate in Hong Kong, much as its Foreign Min-istry already keeps an office of 150 people. The trade committee would be carrying oot a function of the Chinese executive and could claim exemption from all statutory law.

The new law is retroactive to July 1, when China assumed sovereignty over Hong Kong. That would appear to absolve Xinhua from a possible private action to be brought by a former legislanor, Emily Lau, who claims the agency violated a privacy law by refusing to hand over its files on her.

The government's reluctance to prosecure Xinhua over the matter caused a storn last month because the press agency exceeded by nine months the cerned about the loose definition of time limit for responding to a request the term "state." And what is meant such as Miss Lau's. Hong Kong's chief hy "central authority" is unclear, said executive. Tung Chee-liwa, defended Johannes Chan, a law professor at the the decision not to prosecute, arguing University of Hong Kong and a mem- that Xinhua had only been in "technical breach" of the law.

BRIEFLY

U.S. Envoy to Return To Middle East Soon

WASHINGTON — The U.S. envoy Dennis Ross is likely to return to the Middle East in about 10 days to try again to bridge gaps between Israel and Palestinians on peace efforts, a senior American official said Tuesday,

The official said that Mr. Ross probably would travel "after Passover." which begins Friday and lasts for eigh

President Bill Clinton held a brain-storming session on the Middle East on Monday night with Mr. Ross and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright 'We're looking for ways to bring the

process to closure," the official said 'We're continuing to negotiate."

Ierusalem on Guard

FERUSALEM- Israel, already on high alert after the death of a Hamas high alert after the death of a Hamas bomb-maker, beefed up security in Jerusalem on Tuesday for fear of possible violence after police shot and killed Palestinian man in a car chase.

The police said they had shot Bilal Salaymen late Monday after he refused to stop his vehicte and tried to outrun two patrol cars on a road from Jerusalem to

Mr. Salaymeh's brother, Nadir Salaymeh, asserted that the police had shot him after he stopped.

Canada Meets Cubans

TORONTO - Twelve freed Cuban political prisocers whose release had been sought by Pope John Paul II arrived in Canada early Tuesday.

The former prisoners and about two dozen dependeots arrived at Pearson Insternational Airport on a flight from Cuba and were met by Canadian officials who had agreed to accept them after weeks of security and background checks. (AP)

Maple Leaf in Quebec

QUEBEC - The Canadian flag flew once again Tuesday at Quebec City's. city hall, eight years after the mayor, ordered it removed.

A majority on the city council voted to:
display the flag, which Mayor Jean-Paul,
L'Allier ordered removed in 1990 after the breakdown of negotiations on giving Quebec special status under the Cana-dian Constitution. (AP)

<u>Blance : Marine en la la la partida</u>

图片 法

MARKET: Many Americans Miss Out

American people will look at this and er as long as 2 million years, "getting

Continued from Page 1

mutual fund is making a little money. But those gains are quite small in relation to very hig increases for wealthy families."

Conservative economists agree that there is a problem but say it can be solved by preaching the virtues of stocks. "As we head into the next century, income and wealth are being driven by ownership," said Stephen Moore, analyst at the Cato Institute. "If we stay on our current course, it will lead to wider divisions. The answer is to help all the people get into the market. We have to create a nation of capitalists, in which everybody can own their piece of the rock."

Mr. Marcus said that even if he had a little money to spare, he would be wary of socking his hard-earned wages into anything riskier than a regular savings account or certificates of deposit. "I personally don't have the money to lose," he said.

And yet, in the years since Mr. Marcus achieved moch higher average returns than other assets. Analysts at Vanguard Group estimate that if Mr. Marcus had managed to squirrel away \$1,000 each year after his 20th birthday, plowed that money into a mutual fund that matched the performance of the Dow and reinvested his dividends, he would now own a stock portfolio worth more than

Over the full 25-year period, Mr. Marcus would have earned an average an- be worth more than \$300,000.

Continued from Page I

that the Cleveland Avenue grammar school, a handsome brick building, was

built two years ago without a play-

ground. For children like Toya, a 5-year-

old with a smart vocahulary and a zesty

sense of wonder, questions about recess

To experts on child development, vir-

tually without exception, it seems pre-

posterous to eliminate recess at a time

when so many young people are growing obese, and when so many disorders

linked to restlessness are being dia-

development at the University of Geor-

gia who is the author of books on chil-

proach: let's stick their nose in it long

Tony Pellegrini, a professor of child

gnosed among children.

only brought a puzzled expression.
"What's recess?" she asked.

At the other end of the spectrum, some of the most dramatic beneficiaries of the market's impressive rise include Americans who work in the high-technology sector and receive part of their compensation in stocks.

Consider the case of Steve Hard, 25, and his wife, Tamiko, 23, both of whom are employed by UUNet Technologies Inc., a subsidiary of WorldCom Inc. Steve handles transactions between

earns about \$28,000 a year. But since joining UUNet in 1995, the couple has accumulated about 7,000 WorldCom shares. Some were acquired as signing boouses, some as rewards for joined the labor force, stocks have good job performance and some through a payroll deductioo program that allows

> The Hards have sold about \$40,000 of their stock over the last year or so. But they estimate the value of their remaining shares at more than \$100,000. If WorldCom's stock price, which was trading late Tuesday at \$42.8125, down 50 cents, reaches \$75 in the next two years, they calculate, their portfolio will

RECESS: Many U.S. Schools Are Dispensing With Play Time

Critics of the no-recess policy also

maintain that it simply does not work. If

lawyers and ourses and grocery store

cterks need breaks to relax and recharge,

Olga Jarrett, a professor of child de-

velopment at Georgia State University.

recently condocted a study of academic

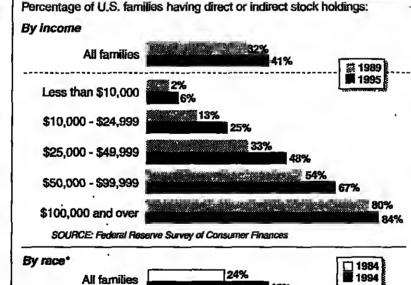
children, they say, need a break, too.

nual return of better than 16 percent. But he would have had to hang oo through some dramatic ups and downs. The value of his holdings would have contracted 13 percent in 1973 and 24 percent in 1974. But his portfolio would have jumped 34 percent in 1985 and 37 percent in 1995.

UUNet and telephone companies. Tamiko is an accouot processor. Each

employees to purchase WorldCom shares at a discount.

Wall Street's Rise: An Uneven Bounty



For married households with equivalent levels of income and education Source: University of Michigan Institute for Social Research

Black families

groups are more likely to invest in of the Panel Study on Income Dynamics, stocks, their education, race and marital status are also powerful indicators of trends in America. whether they will own stock, according to Frank Stafford, an economist at the

When do kids learn to interact with

kids?" Professor Jarrett asked, noting that

many children today go home after school and sit in front of the television, rather

than play outdoors. "We have many latchkey kids who go home and lock the

door until their parents get home. Now if

learn to mix with others.

While people in higher-income University of Michigan and co-director an ongoing inquiry into shifting wealth

> In contrast to the Fed's survey of consumer finances, which studies the wealth of a different sample of Americans chosen at random every three years, the panel study tracks the savings and investment patterns of the same sample of U.S. families over time. Mr. Stafford and his colleagues have found that families are much more likely to hitch their financial wagon to the stock market if the head of the household has a college degree and is married rather than single.

> He has also discovered that, even after adjusting for income, educatioo and family status, African-American households are far tess likely than Americans as a whole to participate in the stock market. Of the married African-American families surveyed by the most recent panel study in 1994, only 14 percent owned stocks, compared with 45 percent

rates for blacks "a shocking statistic," reflecting a trend that has significantly slowed the pace at which the wealth of African-American families is catching

up with that of other Americans. The market's disproportionate bounty comes in the wake of two decades in which many economists agree that the chasm between America's haves and have-nots has steadily widened.

According to an analysis of Congresthey are known to cover these new gov-

DEAL: Citigroup Makes Big Bet on Asia

Continued from Page 1

and investment-banking services, as well as to sell insurance. "The governments in this region have to recognize that this is the new model," he said.

If the merger goes through, the new Citigroup would instantly vault into the ranks of Asia's "global universal banks," which include HSBC Holdings PLC, Deutsche Bank AG, and ING Barings. Only HSBC Holdings, which has assets of \$393.6 billion, would have a more dominant regional position. Although Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi has more assets than

HSBC, it focuses mainly on Japan. Several banking executives predicted that the deal would force HSBC to pursue a merger of its own, perhaps with J. P. Morgan & Co.

Executives at Citibank's Asian discussing plans to offer Travelers insurance to its clients. That business is now dominated in Asia by American International Group and National Mutual, a French-owned company. But if Citibank with every mortgage, Travelers could quickly become a powerhouse here.

Citigroup will also put pressure ou American and other foreign investment banks, which have spent millions of dollars to establish beachheads here and are now suffering through the crisis. The deal greatly strengthens Salomon Smith Barney, the investment banking arm of Travelers, by giving it access to Cit-ibank's connections in the region.

Salomon has huilt a respectable reputation in Asia in recent months by handling a global bond issue for South Korea, along with Goldman, Sachs & Co. Bot it is still generally perceived as a second-string player in the region, after Goldman, Merrill Lynch & Co., and Morgan Stanley & Co. Now, though, Salomon and Citibank will be abte to refer customers to each other - an advantage their rivals do not have.

"For Salomon's point of view, access to Citibank's long history in Asia and its distribution network can only benefit us." said Andrew Butcher, the director of business planning at Salomon Smith Barney in Hoog Kong.

Continued from Page 1

Citibank has been active in Asia since the turn of the century, though it ramped; op its expansion in the 1980s under the direction of Mr. Reed. Battling onerous government restrictions, crumbling lost, many cal infrastructure, and the Asian bias against borrowing, Citibank has made its logo as recognizable in Kuala Lumpur as Kansas City. Its Asian operations generated \$866 million in net income in 1996, on revenues of \$3.3 hillion.

In a 1996 interview, Mr. Reed said he was reluctant to pursue a megamerger of the kind Citibank announced Monday because such a deal would deflect attention from the bank's valuable international franchise.

But that was two years ago, when the Asian Tiger economies were still roaring. Today, Citibank most contend with deht-ridden corporate clients and conheadquarters said the bank was already sumers who are curtailing their freespending habits.

As household plummeted, so has purchasing power and consumer confidence. In a recent survey of 12 Pacific Rim countries cod were to offer home-owners insurance ducted by Mastercard, only the Australians and Chinese were optimistic about the future.

Analysts pointed out that Citibank has not been as scarred hy bad loans or insofvent customers as local banks. They tried to avoid hig-ticket loans and the types of transactions that can go bad. Mr. Niem of HSBC said.

fact, Asia's economic distress might offer the combined Citibank-Travelers some choice opportunities. Regulators in some countries, such as Thailand, might be willing to hand out more generous bank franchise agreements to help prop up their battered banking systems. The oew Citigroup could also acquire branches of local banks whose assets have been taken over by the government,

Given the potential problems with these, however, several analysts said the company ought to be very cautious about acquiring banking assets in the region. Most of all, they counseled patience. Asia will eventually recover, these analysts said, and when it does, it will still be the potential gold mine that piqued Mr. Reed's interest more than a decade ago.

students who did not get a break were or at home, how are they going to learn to much more fidgety in the classroom. Just resolve conflict with their peers?" of all married families. Mr. Stafford called the participation GERMANY: Unemployment Drops a Tad **ULSTER:** Blair Hurries to Peace Talks

Continued from Page 1

dren at play, said, "Every study shows running against Gerhard Schroeder for

that children are more attentive after recess — as the kids would say, 'Well, duh!'"

recess — as the kids would say, 'Well, duh!'"

recess — as the kids would say, 'Well, duh!'" Protest organizers said they expected a total of 50,000 demonstrators in 300 "But there's this political appeal at towns and cities across the country, but work: We want to improve performance; rallies appeared to be small compared we don't want to waste time; we don't with previous months, possibly because want to coddle kids," Mr. Pellegrini official business in Germany slows

said. "So we adopt this factory-like ap- down in the days before Easter. Germany's main union feders

meal, and cannot mill about and talk to as worrisome, she said, the rigid struc-friends. as worrisome, she said, the rigid struc-ture deprived children of a chance to

performance and recess, and found that they can't mingle with other kids at school

Germany's consumer prices fell 0.2 percent in the month, keeping the country's annual inflation rate at a seven-year low of 1.1 percent in March, the Federal Statistics Office said.

growth," said Thomas Kull, an econ-oo Budget and Policy Priorities, between

percent from 10.4 percent. Swelling jobless rolls, however, have stifled consumer spending, holding down infla-

"We will continue to see good rates of sional Budget Office data by the Center

role in northern affairs.

tually a united Ireland, free of British control, run from Duhlin. Although the details of the Mitchell

estant complaint with the Irish govern-ment, a sponsor of the talks with Britain, Ireland has only a marginal consultative is that the Irish have refused to specify how they woold tone down Ireland's constitutional claim to sovereignty in the Protestants bristle at this as a Catholic Troian Horse intended to create eveo-

Mr. Ahern, who was in Dublin on Tuesday for the funeral of his mother, did not comment immediately on Mr. proposals have not been made public, Trimble's rejection of the Mitchell pro-

صكذا من الاعل

BRIEFLY

U.S. Envoy to Retun INT'L FRANCHISES

WASHINGTON The U.S. Deanis Ross is likely to return to bridge gaps between Israel and serious on peace efforts. catinians on peace efforts and American official said Tuesday ably would travel after passes which begins Friday and lasts for the category.

President Bill Clinton held a storming session on the Middle be

Monday night with Mr. Ross and retary of State Madeleine Alman We re looking for ways to be process to closure. The official we're continuing to negotiate.

Jerusalem on Guan

JERUSALEM— Israel, alread high alert after the death of a light bomb-maker, beefed up security is rusalem on Tuesday for fear of particles after police shot and high balactinian man in a car character. Palestinian man in a car chare

The police said they had duy Salaymeh late Monday after he reto stop his vehicle and tried former pairol cars on a road from length

Mr. Salaymeh's brother Naday meh asserted that the police led him after he stopped.

Canada Meets Cuba

TORONTO - Twelve Ireal G political prisoners whose release been sought by Pore John Paul (12) in Canada early Tuesday.

The former prisoners and about dozen dependents armed at Pere ternational Airport on a high from and were met by Canadian official had agreed to accept them atterned security and background shede a

Maple Leaf in Queb

QUEBEC - The Canadan flag once again Tuesday at thicke is city half, eight years and the is endered a removad - A miapority on the an countries

display the time, which they that L'Affier under: _ tempe fin lege the breakdown of the proposings Ouchee special state of the sta

kes Big Bet on his

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Assault Weapons

"You do not need an Uzi to go deer hunting." President Bill Clinton said them. Monday in announcing a permanent ban on the importation of 58 types of semiautomatic assault weapons. That principle should have been recognized years ago. Mr. Clinton's directive will at last close a loophole that has allowed foreign gun dealers to infiltrate the legal barrier against imports of assault weapons into the United States.

The 1968 Gun Control Act generally prohibits firearm imports, unless they are particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes." In 1989. President George Bush banned imports of 43 types of semiautomatic assault weapons. Most had military features like grenade launchers, bayonet mounts, pistol grips, night sights and the ability to accept large detachable magazines, which allow a shooter to fire multiple rounds without reloading.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms took the position that a weapon with any of these features other than the detachable magazine could not meet the "sporting purposes" test and would therefore be banned. Foreign gun manufacturers quickly altered their products to meet these guidelines.

But since detachable magazines. including those that hold more than 10 rounds, were still allowed, the

Since 1991, 425,000 modified assault weapons have been allowed into the United States - even as Congress was approving legislation to ban the domestic manufacture, sale and possession of 19 types of assault weapons.

partment temporarily suspended the imports and began a review of the sporting-purposes test as it applied to 59 models of assault weapons that

The review found that large-capacity purpose like hunting or target shooting. To no one's surprise, the review also found that the large-capacity magazines were very popular among criminals.

The order will prevent 1.6 million assault weapons that have already received import permits or are awaiting approval from entering the United States. Mr. Clinton is to be commended for this decision, and for ignoring the contemptible arguments of the gun lobby, which is complaining that profits for gun importers will now be reduced. But there are still nearly 200 million weapons in the country, many of them in the wrong hands. The fight for meaningful gun control is far from over.

Exporting Disease

As communism fell in Eastern Europe, the Marlboro Man rode into town, U.S. cigarene makers were in the vanguard, exporting their lethal products as symbols of Western glamour and free-market prosperity. In the former Soviet Union, the three big multinational tobacco firms became, along with energy companies, the

biggest investors.

When Western advertising began to provoke a nationalist backlash, a new brand appeared. "Peter the Great" cigarenes were designed — according to an inscription on each pack — for those who believe in the revival of the traditions and grandeur of the Russian lands. They are made by, yes, the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The tobacco industry may be on the del'ensive in America, but it is unashamedly on the march overseas, trying any trick to lure old smokers to new brands in ex-Communist countries and to hook new smokers there as well as in the developing world.

The big three - Reynolds, Philip Morris Inc. and British-American Tobacco Co. — want a settlement in large part so that legal challenges in their stagnant home market would not distract them from growth opportunities in the Third World. But an agreement that protects some American children from tobacco addiction at the expense

tries would not be much of a victory. That is why it is important that any tobacco bill include some measures to limit tohacco's predatory behavior

Last November the Treasury De-

were getting past the import ban. magazines did not serve any sporting

-TILE NEW YORK TIMES.

overseas. Senator John McCain's proposal — with support from Senators Ron Wyden, Dick Durbin and others - would prohibit the U.S. government from promoting the U.S. tobacco in-dustry abroad. It also would step up

anti-smoking efforts, with funding coming from a two cents-a-pack "fee" on overseas sales of U.S. cigarettes. Perhaps most important, it would seek to impose the same restrictions against selling or marketing to children overseas as would apply in America.

Some of these provisions are

modeled on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a precedent for U.S. regulation of companies' overseas bebavior. But it is not clear whether they could apply to foreign subsidiaries, and even in their present form they are under anack from some senators and the tobacco industry.

with Congress in passing the strongest legally defensible provisions possible. President Bill Clinton also should provide more leadership of an inter-

Tobacco accounted for 2.6 percent of the worldwide burden of disease in 1990, according to a recent study by the World Health Organization and the World Bank. By 2020, that figure will nutrition, HIV or any single disease. U.S. firms bear considerable responsibility for that sad statistic.

-THE WASHINGTON POST.

U.S. efforts against cigarette smug-gling and assist other nations in their

The administration should work national coalition against smoking.

Budget Restraint

The budget resolution the U.S. Senate adopted last week resists the temptation to spend money Congress does not have. That alone makes it an unusual and solid piece of work. It does not spend the widely anticipated budget surplus that does not yet exist. Rather, the Republicans under Budget Comminee Chairman Pete Domenici yielded to the president's injunction that the surplus, if one materializes, be used to strengthen the government's future ability to finance Social Security retirement benefits by paying down the debt.

Having yielded to the president on the surplus, Mr. Domenici then went him one bener and insisted that any cigarene tax increase be used to reduce the deht as well, as a way of banking it against the future cost of Medicare. Some of this was ut for tal, since the president, while walling off the surplus, had wanted to use the cigarette proceeds to help finance his child-care program and other domestic initiatives. But the cigarene tax has not been enacted either, and it is bad policy to spend it in advance; the politicians mortgage themselves to the tobacco companies if they do so.

With the surplus and the cigarette tax both declared off limits, the Budget Comminee bad trouble coming up with much free money, and just about every scrap it found was set uside for what would otherwise be the budgethusting highway bill that Congress is passing. That left both parties unhappy, even as they voted with en-

thusiasm for the roads. Republicans want to give a tax cut, and conservative Republican senators threatened to withhold their votes for the hudget resolution until the majority leader, Trent Lott, agreed to try to make more room for a tax cut later in the hudget process. But the rules remain such that whatever cut they grant will have to be financed, most likely by an offsetting increase. What will it be?

Likewise, the Democrais, led by the president, complain that his initiatives were shut out, as they were. But they too mostly voted for the highway bill, and the president did not oppose it either. Even now he is reluctant to do so; he would just like a little shaved off the top.

A tax cut makes no sense just oow. If anything, as the likely future costs of Social Security and Medicare and such things as the highway hill attest, the government already lacks the funds to meet its obligations - to do what the country leginmately expects of it without lapsing once again into borrowand-spend. As to wbether highways or increased child-care subsidies should come first, that is a fair enough debate to have in an election year. They just

need to pay for what they choose. - THE WASHINGTON POST.

WASHINGTON — At this time each year world leaders prepare for the annual June G-7 summit meeting by asking themselves: What should we talk about this year? Every year they come up with some phony theme. Well, I've got an idea. Let's have them talk about something really important.

Let's make this year's Group of Seven meeting about Japan. Even though the summit will be in Birmingham, England, I say serve those G-7 leaders sushi and rice for every meal, make them attend origami classes and tea ceremonies and list every item on the agenda as: "Discussion about Japan." That's right, let's really spotlight Japan. Who knows, maybe that will help trigger the only thing that will really stimulate Japan's economy: a revolution. Why should you care? Because Asia

today is sinking into recession. In an effort to climb out, all the Asians are trying to use their cheap currencies to increase exports and stoke up growth. But someone has to huy all those exports. And if Japan, the world's secondlargest economy after the United States, will not take its share, everyone is going

to try to export to America. That, in turn.

could send the U.S. trade deficit soaring,

By Thomas L. Friedman

shrink the earnings of U.S. multinationals, spark a strong protectionist backlash in America and end the long boom in the U.S. economy.

I would say that is worth talking about at a G-7 meeting, especially since Japan, despite seven lean years of virtually no growth, still cannot stimulate its economy, because it has political and economic arteriosclerosis.

Politically speaking, Japan today is like Japan near the end of World War II: Tokyo was burned to the ground, Nagasaki and Hiroshima had been flattened, the Japanese fleet was at the bottom of the ocean. But the Japanese political leadership would meet each day in the emperor's bunker and no one could bring themselves to tell him: "Game over." Finally, the emperor had to do it himself, telling the Japanese people they had to swallow their

tears and surrender. Well, today unfortunately there is no all-powerful Japanese emperor. So Japan's politicians are home alone in their hunker, still dithering over who will tell the people that they have and in uncertain times do so even more,

to surrender to the global economy. The old Japanese system - topdown capitalism, protected by high trade barriers - cannot be sustained in today's new fast-paced, integrated in-

'Japan can't stimulate effectively unless the system is changed," argues Clyde Prestowitz, head of the Economic Strategy Institute and a longtime analyst of the Japanese economy. "You cannot have a macroeconomic solution

in Japan without a micro solution." That is because Japanese consumers will not spend and Japanese banks will not lend — without radical reforms.

Japan's banks are in feeble shape, notes Mr. Prestowitz, so when the government tries to inject money into the banking system (usually by propping up the stock market), the Japanese banks keep the money to shore up their balance sheets and do not make any new loans. Until the Japanese government does an American-style S&L bailout, and takes the bad loans off the books of the Japanese banks, it will be hard for the banks

Meanwhile, Japanese consumers, who in the best of times save too much

to contribute to a stimulus.

What Does Japan Need? An Economic Revolution tend to take tax cuts and stuff a lot of it into their mattresses. One reason Jananese consumers do not spend is because everything in Japan is so expensive. because the economy is so regulated and full of hidden monopolies and paiffs

Without some real move to open the Japanese economy, Japanese consurners, who have trillions of dollars in savings stashed away, are never going to buy enough from the rest of the world. But Japan's macroeconomic policies

have also been wanting. The Japanese government keeps offering what the I.S. deputy Treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers, rightly calls "virtual fiscal policy" - phantom spending programs and voodoo tax cuts that not only have not stimulated the Jap-anese economy but have actually left it contracting at a time of already slow growth, à la Herbert Hoover.

Japan needs an economic revolution. For now, though, there is no ruling or opposition figure there to articulate and lead that revolution. So either America and its G-7 partners will do it. by bammering Japan, or a major eco-nomic catastrophe will do it, by hammering us all.

The New York Times.

It's Now Up to Outsiders to Develop an Action Plan for Tokyo

months of insisting its vast wealth immunizes it against the Asian economic flu, Japan seems to be contracting an especially virulent case. with its economy now shrink-

ing at a 2 percent annual rate.

In response to domestic and foreign pressure, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto recently announced a \$120 billion public works stimulus package and was promptly criticized by Sony Chairman Norio Ohga, who said Japan was on the verge of meltdown and joined foreign analysts in calling for tax cuts to go along with the spending.

In fact, whether it is tax cuts or spending does not matter. Any stimulus package at this point is like putting a patient who needs a new heart on life support. It may be a necessary measure, but it is not a sufficient one.

The problem is the standard fiscal tools work poorly within the present clogged structure of Japan's economy. Since 1992. Japan has reduced interest rates to virtually nothing, spent nearly \$700 billion on various pump-priming programs and run an overall government By Clyde Prestowitz

percent of GDP (twice the size of the U.S. deficit at its peak) without lasting effect. Why this new package should yield different results is not clear. In fact, there are several reasons why it probably will not.

First, Japanese banks are critically overburdened with nonperforming loans and are desperately trying to improve their anemic capital-to-loan ratios by cutting back on new lending. Thus, as fast as the government injects fiscal stimulus into the economy, the banks are withdrawing it, giving rise to a wave of bankruptcies and a loss of confidence on the part of businessmen and consumers alike.

Added to traditional impediments to consumption and growing concern over the adequacy of pensions for its rapidly graying society, this bear-ish psychology is driving Japan's already high personal savings rate to levels that will undercut the potential impact of any tax cuts by ensuring that tax savings will simply wind up lying around the house. Finally, Japanese public

works spending has become so

budget deficit of more than 7 exorbitant and corrupt over the years that it is an extremely inefficient stimulant. Just buying the land and making the requisite payoffs for paving riverbeds and building bridges to nowhere eats up so much of program budgets that little is left

for direct economic stimulus. In fact, the only way for fiscal packages to become effective is through the quadruple hypass of deregulation and market opening. But for one of the world's most hureancratic societies, the concept of de-regulation is difficult to grasp.

The truth is that Japan's leaders do not know what to do. Thus, if the United States and others really want Japan to become a locomotive for growth in Asia, they should develop a recommended action plan.

The first step must be restoration of the health of the banking system. To achieve this, the government must clean up the banks' balance sheets by taking responsibility for nonperforming loans. At the same time, Japan's Deposit Insurance Corporation should be strengthened to ensure protection of depositors, while

banks with inadequate capital reserves are closed. changed dramatically by allowing corporations as well as Ja-

Land use regulations are among the major drags on the Japanese economy. At the moment, 15 percent of metropolitan Tokyo is in vegetable patches, while the Japanese public is compelled to live in tiny houses that inhibit consumption simply because they cannot hold a second telephone or television set. Rezoning, reduction of agricultural subsidies and revamping of brilding codes would unclog this bottleneck and unleash a tidal wave of increased consumption of all kinds.

Electricity, airline tickets, phone calls, taxi rides, hospital stays, package delivery and most retail goods cost substantially more in Japan than elsewhere because their sale is heavily regulated. Allowing free entry into these and other regulated businesses would greatly reduce prices and thus stimulate further consumption

and economic growth. Finally, cartels and anti-competitive business practices constitute a major cause of excessively high prices and sluggishness in the Japanese economy. This situation could be The Washington Post.

pan's Fair Trade Commission. to file antitrust actions. An introduction of criminal penalties along with triple damage! awards would also put teeth into the antitrust laws, as would a substantial increase in the staff; and budget of the FTC.

To ensure that Japan takes these or other recommendations seriously, it might be necessary for world leaders to convene an, extraordinary session of the World Trade Organization

It was John Maynard Keyne who proposed in the 1940s that a world trade body should have. emergency measures for handling threats to the trading system arising from chronic surpluses as well as from excessive deficits.

Perhaps it is time for the WTO to come to grips with this, long-recognized problem in a way that would encourage Japan seriously to consider a thorough opening of its market. to both domestic and foreign enterprises.

The writer, president of the Economic Strategy Institute, contributed this comment to

Nazism, Not Catholicism, Is to Blame for the Holocaust

WASHINGTON — In the year 1348, the Black Death swept through much of Europe, leaving one-third of the population dead.

Terror, panic and bewilderment fostered the impulse to identify someone to blame. Many turned to a traditional and vulnerable scapegoat — the Jews. In Switzerland and Germany, Jews were arrested, tortured and made to confess that they had plotted to poison the wells and springs. Thousands of Jews were killed.

In the midst of this violence. Pope Clement VI issued a papal bull, citing 10 earlier popes as a precedent, to reaffirm one aspect of the traditional church doctrine about the Jewish people. Jews are not to be forcibly converted, they are not to be killed.

"Let no Christian dare to wound or kill these Jews, or to seize their property, except from the lawful sentence of the lord of the region, or city, or countryside which they inhabit."

experience.

A Disappointing Vatican Report

WE HAD placed a great deal of hope on the Roman Catholic

V Church's declaration on the Holocaust, which Pope John Paul II had promised more than 10 years ago. But the document issued by the Vatican March 16 falls short of our expectations.

faith from John Paul II. The man is up to the task. He was raised in

Krakow, a center of Jewish life, in a Catholic Poland permeated by

anti-Semitism. A priest who fought in the resistance, be was a

witness to Nazi barbarity. Jewish suffering was central to his own

John Paul II follows in the footsteps of John XXIII and Paul VI

The Vatican report, which was approved by the Pope, un-

in overturning, in the space of some 35 years, 2,000 years of

derscores the evolution of the Catholic Church's attitude toward

Judaism. It takes an important step forward. The Papal Com-

mission for Religious Ties with Judaism recognizes the church's

responsibility in the spread of European anti-Semitism and in the

olics failed to belp the persecuted because of hostility toward

Jews that had prevented any spiritual resistance to the Nazi

an improvement in relations between the Catholic Church and

Judaism. The expression of compassion, the Hebrew-language

repentance (teshouva), the acknowledgment of errors and mis-

Just a few years ago this declaration would have seemed

revolutionary. But it is difficult to overlook the major statements

made in the interim by the Polish, German and French churches.

Their statements were hased on lucid historical analyses that made

Unfortunately, the document published by the Vatican pales in

- Henri Hojdenherg, president of the Representative Council

of Jewish Institutions in France. This comment was excerpted

from an article that appeared in Le Monde (Poris).

deeds have not failed to touch us.

The statement contains an essential reminder that many Cath-

We are not insensitive to the effort this document makes to forge

conflict and incomprehension between Christians and Jews.

errors and misdeeds of the faithful, and sees fit to repent.

We waited patiently, but with confidence, for this profession of

chronicler wrote that "the Jews were burnt all the way from the Mediterranean into Germany, hut not in Avignon, for the Pope protected them there."

This example of papal leadership during the catastrophe that ravaged mid-14th century Europe is worth pondering given the heated controversies that have recently erupted over the introductory film "Anti-Semitism" shown by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and over the Vatican's recent document titled "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah."

Central to both controversies is wbether — as many have understood the Holocaust Museum film to suggest - traditional negative Christian teachings about the Jews and Judaism led directly to the virulent anti-Semitism that drove the Nazi attempt to annihilate the Jews.

On this issue, I believe that

A contemporary Christian the Vatican statement is correct in asserting that Nazi anti-Semitism "had its roots outside of Christianity," that it was not derived from the anti-Jewish

By Marc Saperstein

rather from an "exacerbated nationalism" and a secular 'pseudo-scientific" racism. Nazi texts provide no evidence that the anti-Semitism of Hitler or Himmler was informed by the Christian characterization of the Jews as Christ-killers, condemned by God because they refused to recognize the messiah. Nazi

realms. The Jews are "like a maggot" feeding upon the corruption of German culture (Hitler), "a germ" that must be exterminated (Himmler), "the gangrenous appendix of mankind" (an SS physician at Auschwitz).

rhetoric is drawn from different

Some of those who bad been nourished by the Christian teaching of contempt undoubtedly found the new racist anti-Semitism appealing. But the suggestion that Christian doctrines or practice led directly to the Nazi death camps is misleading and inappropriate.

A second issue pertains to the behavior of the church leadership while the Jews of Europe were being murdered. Here the Vatican statement reaches a puzzling conclusion.

After noting instances of churchmen who did condemn Nazi persecution of the Jews, and of Christians who sheltered Jews at considerable risk, it goes on to say that "the spiritual resistance and concrete action of other Christians was not that which might have been expected from Christ's followers."

For this failure to "raise their voices in protest," the statement proclaims a need for pen-

But why should ordinary Christians be held to this standard when the highest leadership of the church during World War II - Pope Pius XII and the Varican's secretary of state, Luigi Cardinal Maglione - set the policy not to raise their voices in protest? That this was indeed the policy is beyond dispute.

The justification is that more could be accomplished for the Jews through behind-thescenes diplomatic maneuvering than through public condemnation. But this silence was also a

corollary of Vatican neutrality during the war, which was bound up with the geopolitical judgment that the Nazi regime was an indispensable bulwark against the advance of atheistic communism into central Europe. To the leaders of the doctrines of the church but church, Hitler was clearly preferable to Stalin.

The only public hint by the Pope of a protest against mass murder came in a single sentence of his Christmas message of 1942, mentioning the "hundreds of thousands of persons who, without any fault on their part, sometimes only because of nationality or race, bave been consigned to death or to a slow decline." This formulation was carefully crafted to avoid explicit reference to the Jews as victims or to the Nazis as per-

When President Franklin Roosevelt's special envoy urged a more explicit statement, the reply was that the Pope "could not mention the Nazis without at the same time mentioning the Bolsheviks."

What if, in that Christmas message, Pope Pius XII had abandoned diplomatic ambiguity and reiterated the forthright words of his predecessor, Clement VI: "Let no Christian dare to wound or kill these Jews, or to seize their property"?

How many Catholics in the SS or in the German reserve police battalions might have heeded these words and declared themselves incapable of carrying our the orders for mass murder?

Surely such a statement would have bad greater impact than the protest of the ordinary Christians whose shortcomings are sorrowfully noted by the new Vatican statement.

Yet this discussion should not blur the distinction between the failure of Christian individuals and institutions to protest or resist and the crim of the Nazis who conceived implemented the policy to annihilate the Jews. There were limits to the capacity of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church to prevent a world power with military domination over a continent from murdering the civilians it defined as its

enemies. The fundamental responsibility for the Holocaust lies with the Nazi perpetrators. Not with Pope Pius XII. Not with the church. Not with the teachings of the Christian faith.

The writer is a professor of Jewish history and director of the program in Judaic studie George Washington University. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Leaving Cuba

MADRID - The Imparcial publishes a long cable despatch from Havana last night [April 7] describing the populace as intensely excited owing to the inevitableness of war. The message further says that Consul-General Lee has sent urgent messages to all American citizens to avail themselves of the steamers specially chartered by the Washington Government. During twenty-four hours, 386 passports have been issued, and the passenger wbarf is piled up with trunks and other personal luggage. It is stated that General Woodford is now ready to leave

1923: Pram Race

Madrid at a moment's ootice.

LONDON - Mrs. Lily Groom, of Eastbourne, won the Mothers: London-to-Brighton perambulator race to-day [April 7]. She pushed a baby carriage with

her two-year-old baby in it a distance of 52 miles in 12 hours 20 minutes. She is forty years of age and is the mother of five.

1948: German State

DUSSELDORF - The American and British Military Governments today [April 7] firmly shut the diplomatic door to further negotiations with the Russi sians about the Germans' future: by calling on all Germans to join the political battle against Communism. In the most strongly worded pronouncement yet untered by any responsible Military Government official, the British Military Governor, General Sir Brian Robertson, revealed the decision of the Western powers to create a German state as a measure to prevent war from breaking out in Europe, and gave ample indication the the quadripartite government of occupied Germany has officially been buried by the Allies.

Herald Cribune

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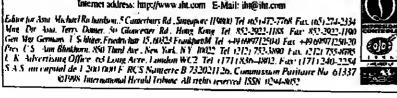
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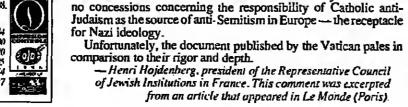
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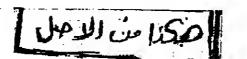
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OPINION/LETTERS

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1948: Germin's Di Schiller Kill

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Sex in the Workplace: A Weapon for Women BALTIMORE — Two de-cades have passed since

By Rosalie Osias

Bella Abzug emerged as hours a day at work were women are still at the bottom drives the feminist movement leaders, society condemned the woman who would dare to put her career first. The feminist movement

a fiery champion of women's

rights. Perhaps the news of

Ms. Abzug's death will un-

derline the need for a new

As the president of a non-

recognizing the realities of

the workplace, I hope that the

dentified with, but the nne

ased by the French when they

toppled King Charles X in 1830: a bare-breasted Liberty

The reality is that feminist

leaders sent us into the battle

(o achieve equality totally un-

repared to take and hold new

could have it all — be an

exial ground. We were told

alluring spouse, dynamic ex-ecutive and loving parent. But

the biological facts of life

demonstrated that this was

at the barricades.

male-dominated world.

feminist movement - one that tells women bow to set also stripped women of a crugoals and how to achieve cial weapon in their war for them within the reality of a profit foundation dedicated to make wanten an invisible part game that guides the maleof the office landscape. Odornexi century allows women to their politically correct ase weapons still effective in the age-old battle between the the business publication Bar- harassnient lawsuits from sexes. The symbol for our ron's recently that they pre- women who are labeled harnew revolution? Not burning ferred to "hang out with the lols. bras, which Bella Abzug was

Times article about highranking executives that said, "It is clear that warnen have a long way to go in order to and enemy alike. achieve parity in these influential positions or earning

The article notes that only 23 companies, or less than 5

hailed as visionary business of the economic scale, still crazy. being paid less than men for eunivalent work.

We would not need women's legal rights advocates or the pathetic attempts at femmist networking if the origequality in the workplace: mal movement had been suctheir femininity. They put us into unisex business suits that tools and insight to play the dominated business environless, colorless and sexless, ment — or in recent months, the Oval Office. Instead, we guidelines allowed men to tell have seen a barrage of sexual

Sexuality in the workplace And what about pay equity? The glaring reality was brought to light in December in a New York at the core of all our relationships, and it is the reason that the president's popularity polls remain the envy of ally

In their hearts, Americans admit sexual tensinns exist in the office, an the facinry floor, in the har and even between two drivets who pause percent of the Fortune 500, at a red light long enough to had warmen in a quarter or size each niher up. Why conwell fiction.

While men who spent 18 corporate officers, ln general, every American under-

ands? Meanwhile, the ultimate
But this simple sexual fruth legacy of the Clinton admin-

For more than a quartercentury, the movement's leadership has instructed folwill be free of sexual tension. They have insisted that merit and merit alone will be the

How to succeed in business, the old-fashioned

criterion for success. That premise is a lie. A multibillion-dollar industry is built on the use of sex to motivate, hlind, direct and leverage our lives. Sex has won wars, lost empires and consumed our lives. How could the feminist movement direct that a law as basic as gravity be repealed?

The president of the National Organization for Women, Patricia Ireland, sought to find a way out of this maze when she said, "We bave to redefine the presidency instead of harassment."

What she should have admitted is it is time to redefine feminist movement, which has become stagnant and more intent on protecting its own bureaucracy than using the power of women to crack the glass ceiling. Its leadership knows nothing of the real world where men continue to dominate. The movement should realize it has become morally bankrupt and get on with the task of reorganization.

istration may be its role in causing the decline and fall of the feminist movement. The president's reputed "women troubles" shows that the femlowers that the workplace inist movement is unable to reconcile the alleged acrions of a liberal president with its own litmus test for sexual politics. Bill Clinton, who endorses virtually the entire platform of the feminist establishment, will be the man

history records as having

stripped away the sexual hy-

pocrisy of a movement that

lost its way, As we close the book on the 20th century and lay Bella Abzug to rest, let us also close the chapter on pay discrim-ination and sexual discrimmation in the office and enact legislation based on the concept of comparable worth. Our mothers, wives, sisters and friends work hard. It is time they are paid accordingly and go on to use their inherent attributes and talents

to further career goals.

Women can indeed use their sexuality to achieve professional objectives. They need to understand how sexual tension can put men off guard and give women an ad-

Like Dornthy with her red shoes in the Land of Oz, we women have always had the power to manipulate men. Now it is time to use the power as a weapon that enhances our stockpile.

The writer, a lawyer and president of the Osias Foundation, contributed this com-ment to The Sun (Baltimore).

So Many Books, So Little Space

By Kyle Jarrard

leacher's desk one morning.

Certainly an eternity, maybe a month, had passed since we'd each made our half-dozen X's on order forms and brought in our hardsaved coins. Once a year you'd get to be the one to open the box, be the first to breathe its binders are black and ancient.

MEANWHILE

sweet odors, match the colorful volumes with their new owners and distribute them desk-to-desk to beaming friends. It was Christmas, and the teacher wouldn't get a lick of work out of us the rest of the day.

I can't possibly recall any of those books now. They might have been important or famous, but all I know is how it felt to hold six of them in your hand, these warm, lifegiving lumps of cut paper and glue and ink. They were yours alone. To be wrenched this way and that until the spine cried out, to be squeezed so hard your sweating fingers smeared the cover picture, the whole batch to be absorbed inside a week.

The book club tales have disappeared, of course, to be replaced with volumes gathered over the last 25 years, a wink in

Books of tree-huggers' poetry or analysis of ancient human bones from African badlands; Flaubert and Faulkner or van Gogh's leners in his brother Theo: Orwell's cal-Grace Paley. Amos Tutuola, Blaise seems, or perhaps it is I that must do Cendrars or V. S. Naipaul's "A House for traveling first I can hardly be patient. Mr. Biswas"; Guillermo Cabrera Infante's 'Three Trapped Tigers' or guides to better golf, beginning chess, particle physics; Jonathan Swift, Charles Bukowski and Jean-Paul Sartre or Ray Bradbury's "Zen

in the Art of Writing. I don't buy the argument that you should

DARIS — In grade school, the box from go to the lending library so as to keep from I the book club would be there on the buying books that will only take up room in our home. Don't misunderstand: I love libraries, not so much for what they do (lend books) as for the silence of faces over luminous pages and the cognizant fog that drifts along the highest shelves where all

It's just that I love to have books all around me all the time, landscaping my space, exuding musty wonders; and, yes, Cicero, I get a chill when I go into a home where there are nn books. The Information Age is all over us, but that's not the reason I don't expect any letup in the march of volumes into my hame.

My problem (well, habit) is that I can't go shopping without bringing home a book or two or three. On a recent vacation at my parents' home, I raided the attic for my college books and hauled them back to Paris. The booty from this foray provoked drastic rearrangements of the physical elements in my ever-shrinking abode.

Worse than finding the past and digging it up, some would say, I can click a mouse The book club tales have disappeared, nf course, to be replaced with volumes a few days, have Christmas every week if I gathered over the last 25 years, a wink in reading time, that stand stacked in the apartant stand stacked in the second stand ment "like the wind-carved rocks of a longer until I can read them and join that desert landscape," as Alberto Manguel puts world where the tomes rise like canyon it in "A History of Reading." walls long cut by a river of words,

Sn many books, and most of them could never be read a second or third time (the highest bonors a book can earn t. So many books that haven't arrived an my shelves lected writings or William Gass's essays; yet; they have long roads to travel first, it seems, or perhaps it is I that must do the

It is easy to see how all this piling up will turn out. Just what I've wished for all along: a calamitous tumbling, an avalanche that shakes the building and sends a puff of golden dust out into a spring afternoon. But what better way to go?

International Herald Tribune



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Family, Children Often 25), by Rachel Elboins-Dror: Ms. Elboim-Dror implies

servations on a strange group of people. Among the many two-career couples I know, it is far more common to find husbands and wives who support each other's careers and whose relationship is to families overall when she strengthened by their equal modern life.

rangement. In my own family, my working full-time out- to support them while they side the home means that my husband assumes more child care duties and consequently who manage to balance their enjoys a far greater involvement with our children. In addition, the children benefit by truly exercising equality from the realization that they within their household have more possibilities in life something made possible bethan those offered by tradi- cause of husbands who are tion: Fathers can cook, not only willing to do their

sitive, baby-loving son, I'm children. rigid, traditional roles.

LAURIE VON MELCHNER. Darmstadt, Germany.

Ms. Elboim-Dror does a great disservice not only to those of her own sex but also offers only two perspectives: sharing of the burdens of those of women trapped in the role of "mother, spouse, Contrary to Ms. Elboim-r's claim, children can partner" and the "other women" who "capitalize on chant feminist slogans."

What about the women

preers and Children change diapers and cuddle; share of the child-rearing and mothers can be scientists, housekeeping, but also see it "In Today's managers and breadwinners. as essential. For example, my For my compentive, assert- parents, both doctors, worked Suffer" (Meanwhile, March ive daughter and my shy, sen- as a team to rear their two

Ms. Elboim-Dror implies glad that they are growing up that a dysfunctional, selfishly competitive relationship is the norm in a two-career that snit their personalities.

While I agree that seeing "parents for only an bour or two a day during the week and that snit their personalities," to make that snot the way to make the snit their personalities. couple. She must base her ob- rather than being confined to to rear one's children, Ms. Elboim-Dror is failing to note that those parents who raise their children with that type of mind-set will undoubtedly be poor examples of child-rearing even were they to be home bours a day.

SHIEVA GHOFRANY. Tel Aviv.

Captain's Catch

Regarding "Off Sicily, a Lucky Fishing Boar Strikes Ancient Bronze Again" (April

The statue that Francesco Adragna found in international waters and surrendered to Italian cultural authorities will presumably find its way into a provincial museum where the local populace and perhaps the occasional de-voted enthusiast can enjoy it.

But despite the article's reference to "the lucrative black market in antiquities," Mr. Adragna could have offered the piece to museums or collectors anywhere in the world, given the sculpture's

perfectly legal provenance.

A public sale in one of the world's major art markets would have two obvious benefits. One, Mr. Adragna could realize infinitely more than the Italian authorities would ever be prepared to offer. Two, this sculpture would surely end up in a world-class museum such as the Louvre or the Getty, where millions of visitors from all over the world could appreciate it. STEPHEN ROSSI

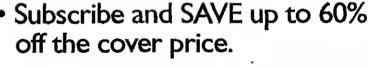
London.

Readers of Sicilian origin - especially if they bear my and Francesco Adragna's moniker - will not be amused by this article's translation of "Capitan Ciccio," the name of Mr. Adragna's fishing boat, as "Captain Fatso.

Circia in this case does not mean "fatso." It is simply the Sicilian dialect diminutive of Francesco, just as Chico is the Spanish diminutive of Francisco, with no implied allusion to dietary habits or their

FRANCESCO VIVIANO. Terrasini, Sicily.





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By Barry James International Herald Technic

ELSINKI — Far from its roots in the low life of Buenos Aires and Montevideo, the tango flourishes in the land of the midnight sun as typical of Finland as saunas and skis.

It has survived everything from Elvis to techno and shows no sign of losing its one-night stands." Polonen said the popularity. Many Finns no longer think tango lyrics help tongue-struck young of the tango as South American at all, and there have even been suggestions that the country's most popular tango. "Satumaa." which speaks of a fairyland of unattainable happiness, should be included in the country's Lutheran

one continent to another. In Argentina, tangos are about deception, love gone wrong, bad women, nostalgia and im-

words, says the filmmaker Markku Polonen, who directed a popular movie on the subject, "are about eternal love, not men to express their feelings to the young women they hold in their arms at open-air dance halls in the country: The words of the song become the words they would like to say.

For many Finns, he said, the tango is a reminder of youth, of velvety summer Tangn. like the Finnish version of base-ball called pesupallo—the pitcher stands next to the batter and throws the ball evenings, of innocence. The central themes are love, sorrow and nature. The tunes are full of Nordic imagery—snow

The good thing about the dance, he said, is that "you get really close."

The tango reached Europe in the 1930s

People dance an energetic fox-trot known as the humppa, which is very good exercise, and the waltz, but when the migrants with cardboard suitcases.

The Finnish tango is smoochier. The

And it is quite acceptable for women to band strikes up a tango, everyone dances. ask men. Finnish tango is not of the kneelocking Argentine variety. For the man, it consists basically of two steps forward and one back, which is just as well after the guys have slipped outside a few times for a surreptitious drink. Polonen said that only the Roma, or gypsies, of which there is a long-established community in Finland, hazard the more intricate Argentine

style of tango dancing.

The rhythm, Polonen acknowledged, is straight-forward "dum, dum, diddly-

the winter war against the Soviet Union, when it came to express the nostalgia and from their families. During those appalling winter days, the Russian troops huddled in their quarters listening to soft balalaika music broadcast by Radio Moscow while the Finns listened to mournful torians say, the music - and those words about distant happiness --- seemed to

here it is a country dance. The advent of hard edge. rock music, says the musicologist Pekka Gronow of the Finnish Broadcasting Co., created a line across the country, dividing it between "Beatle Finland and

defend their homeland.

make the Finns even more determined to

vertically into the air—has undergone an existential shift in its transplantation from nights and the trees.

and the lonely countryside, the white as an exotic Latin dance. Elsewhere it tango Finland. Incidentally, the same of his home in northern Karelia, the same of his home in land it entered the national psyche during votes in the referendum on Finland's loneliness of troops at the front, away which accepted gigs in dance halls there

> tangos. Far from sapping morale, his-known as lavatanssit. Typically there king and queen. bass and drums - another difference: In tional anthem, is one of hundreds of Argentina, the tango is played on a bandoneon, a sharper-sounding instrument Argentine tango is an urban form; that gives Argentine tango its typical

Polonen, a husky, bearded man, briefly performed as a tango singer because, he said, "I dance like a camel." Every time of Argentine tango? Most Finns have he hears a tango, he said, it reminds him never heard of him, Polonen said.

of his home in northern Karelia. close to the border with Russia.

Hundreds of instrumentalists and more than 100,000 fans — not insignificant in a country of only 5 million — turn up every summer for the Seinaloki tango in their repertoire. The typical tango venue is not an than discotheque but the outdoor dance lls all over the country, which are two as lavatanssit. Typically there be a band consisting of accordion and drums — another discording through the nights of midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July 12, culminating in the election of a midnight sun from July 8 to July

tangos written by Unto Mononen, who took his life in 1968 after a long struggle against alcoholism. Olavi Virta, who died in 1972, was the most popular performer, closely followed by the unctuous-voiced

Making Beautiful Music Together? Marketing an Operatic Marriage

By Anthony Tommasini
New York Tomes Service

EW YORK — Maybe the hysteria and confusion an the London opera scene are contagious, the more so since Sir Royal Opera House, is also the chairman of the recording behemoth EMI. Whatever the reason, Richard Lyttelton, the president of EMI Classics, seems positively giddy over his latest coup.

Roberto Alagna, the highly touted Gheorghiu, the glamorous Romanian soprano, have signed an exclusive joint contract with EMI, something Lyttelton has been haping for ever since these anractive singers came to international attention as Rodolfo and Mimi in a 1992 production of Puccini's "La Boheme" at the Royal Opera.

EMI's "creative collaboration" with the two artists, both still in their early 30's, "will form the spearhead of all our recording plans well into the millenfrom a label that has contracts with Thomas Hampson, Ruth Ann Swenson New York City, a day after the couple and Natalie Dessay, superh singers all in

their prime. But Lynelton is banking on the young singers' drawing power, especially now that they are married and focusing their bulhs flashed, video cameras whirred careers increasingly on joint appearances in opera and recital. (It is reliably reported doubtedly danced in Lyttelton's head. that they command \$100,000 a concert.) The most stellar husband-and-wife team in npera history," Lyttleton calls them, and EMI has devised a Hollywood-

ian promotional campaign for them. All of this is a matter of intense interest in the classical-music business, especially among executives at Decca/ London Records, which held an individual contract with Gheorghiu hut failed in a protracted bid to bring Alagna Colin Southgate, the new chairman of the on board. Gregory Barhero, vice president of London Records in New York, says his company, as much as it wanted both artists, would not have ventured a

into the millennium. Roberto Alagna, the highly touted "That's the kind of hype that goes on French-born Sicilian tenor, and Angela in a recurd company." Barbero said. "Together. Alagna and Gheorghiu of-fer a great marketing hook," Barbero added. "But EMI is following a risky

statement like Lyttelton's about plans

If it is a strategy, it is indeed risky. Most listeners who buy complete opera recordings are opinionated, passionate and unlikely to be swayed hy promotional hype.

Then, again, Lyttelon may simply have been lavishing easy flattery on the label's hot artists of the mament. His Lyttelton said recently. This remarks were delivered at a press reception with Alagna and Gheorghin in sang in the first performance this season of Gounod's 'Romeo et Juliette' at the Metropolitan Opera. As Alagna and Gheorghiu arrived, fashionahly late, and visions of profit margins un-

> Alagna has been through a promotional frenzy before and knows that it can quickly dissipate. When he made his Met debut two years ago in "La Boheme,"



Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu in Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amore" at the Lyon National Opera.

spect, miscalculated campaign. His picture was on huses and billboards all over New York. No one could have met such expectations, and in fact Alagna, indisposed on the night of the first performance, fell far short. But he recovered in later performances and has continued to garner fans and sell records.

Gheorghiu is newer to the publicity grind. Unlike Alagna, who was largely

EMI mounted a massive and, in retro-self-taught before he burst onto the scene by winning the 1988 Luciano Pavarotti International Competition in Philadelphia, she had a traditional musical background. After conservatory training in Bucharest, careful early pacing led to a hreakthrough production of Verdi's "La Traviata" in 1994 at Covent Garden, conducted by Sir Georg Solti and recorded by Decca/London. The company immediately offered her a contract, and her debut solo album sold more than 20,000 copies, an impressive

number for a new artist. Alagna and Gheorghiu, who married in 1996, have undeniable glamour and charisma. But do their vocal gifts warrant such a clamor? Although their earlier quires vocal heft and stamina. Alagna

important artists, some recent recordings have been worrisome, including the new EMI recording of "Romeo et Juliette."
On Alagna's debut EMI disk, a pro-

gram of arias from 1995, he displayed a lytic tenor voice with an exceptionally virile tone and a bright ping in the top range. But since then, he has been unable to resist the temptation of weightier Itali-

an and French roles. At first, he seemed to know what he was doing. In 1996, he appeared in a production of Verdi's "Don Carlos" (the original French-language, five-act version) at the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris and elsewhere. Many critics predicted disaster in this role, which resized the lyrical, youthful qualities of Verdi's hero.

But a new EMI Verdi disk, with the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Claudio Abbado, includes arias from roles only Alagna's most ardent fans would wish on him, like Radames in "Aida" and, most implausible, the title role of "Otello." Consistent energy and daring do not hide the drawbacks. To boost his voice, moreover, he sometimes indulges in athletic huffing. And his sound has lost some of its youthful radiance and become a hit grainy.

As Romeo, in the new EMI set, be is more in his element. His performance has vibrancy and an idiomatic sense of French language and style. But bere, too, the energy in his singing sounds uncomfortably forced.

Gheorghin's most exciting work on disk to date remains that Solti "Traviata." Her distinctive sound is dusky in color yet radiant. She uses her voice with agility and hrings expressive, though never overwrought, intensity to her in-terpretation. But her recording of Juliedtham shows a voice that has slipped noticeably. The microphone does not flatter her sound, which is sometimes tremulous and turns patchy in midrange. Her top notes can be hard-edged.

Many critics and opera buffs wonder whether it is wise for two singers with such different vocal endowments to sing together so often. But in a recent conversation, they defended that practice. Gheorghiu was especially adamant about her choice of tenor. "Excuse me," she said, "but if I have the best at home,

I prefer to sing with him."

Alagna added that among singers, working couples are common. "Look at Sutherland and Pavarotti, Callas and Di Stefano, Tebaldi and Del Monaco. Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers," he said.
"You need complicity. The only difference is that we are married. And we the season other's best critics." work revealed two gifted and potentially delivered a performance that empha- are each other's best critics."

BOOKS

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

HORRIFYING event A stands at the center of Louise Erdrich's new novel. "The Antelope Wife." Aggrieved by the collapse of his marriage and his wife's in-Whiteheart Beads tries to commit suicide hy running his truck in a closed garage: before the carbon monoxide can take effect, abuse involving one or more however, he goes back into children was filed against him drink and leaves the vehicle her familial difficulties in running: unbeknownst to "The Antelope Wife." but him. his 11-year-old daugh- this sort of searching for realier. Deanna, has crawled into life parallels is quite beside the back of the truck in hopes the point. The point is not that of accompanying him on a Erdrich's fiction, like that of nighttime drive. She will fall many writers, mirrors some asleep and never wake up. In the hands of another

writer, this episode might seem contrived, melodramatic most powerful and fully or willfully perverse, but Er- imagined novels yet. drich writes with such uncomshe is able to invest such al patches of overwriting, the

The New York Times

eral generations of an extended family, she illuminates the ancient roots of the troubles afflicting the Whiteheart Beads clan, while at the same time revealing the rippling aftereffects of Richard's actions on those who loved him.

Readers who have followed Erdrich's own travails - her hushand and longtime collaborator, Michael Dorris, commined suicide last year. after a complaint of sexual - may well find echoes of of her own experiences; the point is that "The Antelope

Though "The Antelope mon emotional precision that Wife" is marred by occasion-

4 TUESDAYS

THE ANTELOPE WIFE

By Louise Everits with both a harshly palpable reality and a tragic sense of myth. By cutting back and forth in time among several forth in time among

the schematic glibness that hol and their own self-pity. hobbled "The Crown of Columbus" (the 1991 best- Rozin and Frank and Richard, seller she wrote with Dorris) and Klaus and Sweetheart, and portions of her 1994 nov- are the stories of their annowhere to be found in these pages. Instead, Erdrich has returned to doing what she does

best: using multiple viewpoints and strange, surreal tales within tales to conjure up a family's legacy of love, duty and guilt, and to show us how both shifted and endured as its mysteriously vanished. members have abandoned ancient Indian traditions for a modern fast-food existence. Like the characters in "The

Beet Queen" (1986) and "Tracks" (1988), the people in this novel inhahit a realm equally grounded in the mundane, Kodacolor world of Wife" stands as one of her daily life, and the stark hlackand-white world of fable. Richard's estranged wife, Rozin, for instance, is a thoroughly modern woman who is studying to become a lawyer. hut she also shares with her lover, Frank, "a legendary deep love" that frightens and unnerves her: "Their love is too powerful, she says, to con-

> would explode walls. Fry windows. Jell the concrete." Rozin hlames her adulterous passion for Frank for her daughter's death, and for months she avoids him. For Richard, she feels a volatile mix of hatred, longing, anger and wilted love. Richard, on his part, cannot live with the knowledge that he is responsible for his daughter's death. He begins a drinking hinge with his friend Klaus Shawano whose rage and possess-

The Beet Queen"). In fact, less drunks, captives of alco-

Intercut with the stories of 'The Bingo Palace," is cestors - stories that are similarly filled with violence and loss and grief, stories that strangely foretell the future and help shape its outcome. Erdrich tells us the story of Rozin's mother and aunt, Zosie and Mary, and their love for the same man, Authat family's fortunes have gustus Roy, who one day There is a wonderful story

about a man who uses his life, and another about a woman who bets her life on a magical necklace of hlue beads.

LL of these characters Ause their crafts — be it cooking, beadwork or simple reminiscing — to make sense of the world, to imhue it with some sort of meaning.

tain in one place. Their love

As for Erdrich's storyand affecting ne vel.

years later.

cooking skills to save his own

As one character observes of Zosie and Mary's beadwork: "They are sewing us all into a pattern, into life beneath their hands. We are the beads on the waxed string, pricked up hy their sharp needles. We are the tiny pieces of the huge design that they are making - the soul of

telling powers, they are on virtuosic display in this novel. She has given us a fiercely imagined tale of love and loss, a story that manages to transform tragedy into comic redemption, sorrow into heroic survival. She has given us a wonderfully sad, funny New York Times Service

ا صكذا من الاعل

A Zany Rossini at Paris Opera

By David Stevens International Herald Tribune

ARIS — In quick succession in 1813, in two different Venetian theaters, the 21-year-old Rossini made himself the king of serious and comic Italian opera, and he kept the throne until he abdicated more than 15

"L'Italiana in Algeri" was the comic triumph (barely three months after the serious "Tancredi"), and it has just made its zany entry into the repertory of the Paris Opera in a new production at the Palais Garnier.

Cornic is not quite an inadequate word. "L'Italiana" draws on the traditions of both opera huffa and commedia dell'arte, and it has its sentimental, exotic and even patriotic moments, hut mostly it is inspired lunacy paired with clockwork precision.

As for the plot, Isabella, the Italian girl of the title, is shipwrecked off Algeria and captured by Mustafa, the bey, wbo plans to marry her and dump his current wife on Lindoro, his Italian slave who is actually Isabella's long-lost lover.

Everything comes out the way it Alaimo (Mustafa) and Alessandro Corshould after Isabella gives Mustafa a belli (Taddeo) made a pair of expert lesson in man-management.

But the high points are the ensembles. The Act I finale is an ingenious structure huilt on nonsense syllables as several characters wander around describing their confused thoughts with onomatopoeic sounds - din din, bum hum, cra cra. tac tac.

The second act matches that with the famous 'Pappataci" ensemble, in which Mustafa is inducted into the ancient and noble order of Pappataci. whose goal is to achieve perfect hushandhood by merely eating and keeping

Jennifer Larmore is a singer of the caliber needed for Isabella, although she was less comfortable in the role's contralto depths than on top, and she seemed more a diligent comedian than e natural

She sang the sentimental airs with caressing tone and made the hravura best of "Pensa alle patria," one of Rossini's rare patriotic references.

Bruce Ford's light tenor was attractively deployed as Lindoro, Simone performances, through May 2.

24 Blue hue

25 Adagio and

Counterpart

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30 Pitcher Ryan

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quartet members

48 Munich Mr 49 Mendelsson

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belli (Taddeo) made a pair of expert comic basses, while Anthony Smith seized his chance with Haly's ode to Italian women. Jeannette Fischer and Maria Jose Trullu rounded out the soln ensemble as wife No. 1 and her ser-

Andrei Serban's staging was not lacking in zaniness and Bruno Campanella's conducting had plenty of idiomatic zest, hut in a comic work in which ensemble counts for so much there were too many moments when clockwork precision an stage-pit coordination seemed to be

Marina Draghici has had some fun with the sets, notably with the opening shipwreck, accompanied by a huge image of a sinking liner looking suspi-ciously like the Titanic. Her costumes included plastic body appendages that gave the eunuchs identically huge abdomens while huilding up the shoulders of another choral group whose pinstripe suits and fedoras suggested gangsters rather than slaves.

The current run includes nine more

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Herald Eribune

Hundreds of instance of the man in the more than 100 (00) in the significant in a country of the musical event them and in the musical event them and constop dancing through midnight san from 100 (10) in the cultural in th The Contrasting Styles Of Citigroup's Co-Chiefs tional anthem is one of took his life in 1968 derive in 1972, was the mount in 1972, was the mount in 1972.

Success Depends on Their Ability to Cooperate

By Saul Hansell and Leslie Wayne New York Times Service

in 1972, was the most policy closely followed by the large of Argentine lange of the large of th NEW YORK - The two men who will run the financial powerhouse that would be created by the merger of Citicorp and the Travelers Group could hardly be more different,

Sanford Weill, the chairman of Travelers and the son of Polish immigrants, is the coosummate insider, a doer who combines Brooklyn street smarts and Wall Street savvy, and whose office decor always inclodes a fireplace (despite his reputation for frugality). He surrounds himself with loyalists and easily makes friends in high places.

John Reed, the chairman of Ciocorp, is an engineer hy training and an in-

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

tellectual by preference, a private man with an international background who once installed a Japanese rock garden in his office. He is more at home with technology than people, and chooses turmoil over constancy in management.

On Mooday, the two men said they had agreed on the merger of their companies, creating Citigroup, the world's largest financial-services company with a market value of roughly \$140 billion.

In so doing, they have taken the extremely rare step of declaring themselves coequal chief executives, instead of anointing one as the ruler. That means these two men, so used to running their own shows on their own terms, will have to work well together if the largest merger in history is to succeed.
"I think we must work effectively

together, and most importantly, be seen by our people to be working together," Mr. Reed said. "It's like Mom and Dad in one house. If they differ on a single question, the kids know how to exploit it very well."
Yes, Mr. Weill agreed, the main task

will be "convincing people the enemy is our competitors and not each other."

Their reactions to the deal only underscored the contrast in their approaches. As Mr. Reed talked in a meeting with reporters about electronics and platforms and consumer brands, Mr. Weill kept calculating the value the stock market was placing on Travelers in the wake of the deal. "Eighty-four billion,"

he marveled. "Eighty-four hillion." The two men have taken opposing public stances on the question of de-

regulating the financial-services in-dustry; Mr. Weill supports legislation under consideration in the House of Representatives, while Mr. Reed has opposed it. Asked about that difference of opinion, Mr. Weill replied, "He's changed his mind — let me answer that for him."

The merger was elearly Mr. Weill's idea. Six months ago, his eompany, which already owned the brokerage firm Smith Barney, bought Salomon Brothers, the big investment bank. Mr. Weill had "deeided to build the

greatest financial-services company in the history of this country and in the history of the world." said Joseph Califano, the former head of U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and a member of the Travelers board.

But Salomon did not add enough to the company to fill his amhition, so Mr. Weill continued to prowl for acquisitions - with no success. He was rebuffed by Goldman, Sachs & Co., J. P. Morgan & Co. and Bankers Trust Co.

He approached Mr. Reed five weeks ago, when both men were attending a meeting of corporate executives knowo as the Business Council in Washington. Mr. Weill gave Mr. Reed a note with his room oumber at the Park Hyatt and asked to meet with him there. Mr. Reed said he had "no idea" what it was about.

And when Mr. Weill popped the question? "My instinct was to say, "Why oot?" Mr. Reed said.

Details of the merger remain sketchy - it was put together swiftly and without the help even of Mr. Weill's in-house investment bankers. The two executives plan to stay at the helm for at least 18 months, Mr. Reed said, before addressing questioos about succession. The fate of their top subordinates is unclear. But, they said, all directors who also hold executive posts will be kicked off the new board, including Deryck Maughan, the former bead of Salomon, and James Dimon, the president of Travelers and Mr. Weill's long-time right-hand man.

■ Merger of Responsibilities

Sharon Walsh of The Washington Post reported from New York: In an interview, the two men said that

See LEADERS, Page 15

The Two Who Made the Deal

Sanford Weill, the chief executive of Travelers Group, led several companies before he started assembling his financial services giant roughly a decade ago. John Reed, Citicorp's chief executive, has been with the banking company since 1965.



Sanford Weill

BORN March 1933

JOS HISTORY 1986 Hired as chief executive of the Commercial Credit Co. Acquired Travelers In 1993 and Salomon Brothers in 1997.

1983-85 President of the American Express Co. 1965-84 Chief executive of Shearson Loeh Rhoades and its predecessors. American Express acquired it in 1981.

BOARDS Chairman, Camegie Hall Board ol Trustees: member of the boards of directors of New York Hospital, Cornell University Medical College, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center **EDUCATION Comell University**

Source: Company reports

John Reed

BORN February 1939

1984 Promoted to chief

axecutive of Citicorp 1962 Promoted to vice chairman

1975 Put in charge of development of ATMs and other consumer electronic products

On the boards of Monsanto; Philip Momis, Telefónica Internacional de España, MIT, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Spencer Foundation

JOB HISTORY

EDUCATION Joint bachelor's degree from Washington & Jefferson and MIT; master's degree from MIT

Xerox to Cut 9,000 Jobs In Drive to Go Digital

Firm to Take \$1 Billion Charge to Cover Costs

Comprised by Our Staff From Dispatches

STAMFORD, Connecticut - Xerox Corp. said Tuesday it would cut 9,000 jobs, close plants and streamline operations in a restructuring meant to strengthen its position in the rapidly growing business of digital copiers and printers.

Xerox will take an after-tax charge of about \$1 hillion against second-quarter earnings to cover one-time costs of the moves. The company's shares initially rallied hut closed at \$106.6825, down

\$1.4375. The job cuts amount to just under 10 percent of the company's worldwide work force of 91,400.

Xerox said the euts would be made through a combination of attrioon, early retirement and layoffs. About half the jobs will be cut from the United States and half from Europe.

Xerox, which only recently had been adding jobs, is trying to strengthen sales of futuristic digital copiers without devastating sales of old-technology models still used in most offices.

Xerox is trying to lure customers from Hewlett-Packard Co., which has lower operatiog costs that give it an advantage in the growing market for inexpensive and medium-priced printers and copiers. Xerox's new president, Richard Thoman, also wants to free up money so the company can beef up its high-margin

business of servicing and linking office equipment to computers, analysts said.
"They brought in Thoman to reduce costs at Xerox, which historically have been a little high," said David Graham, the research director at Palley-Needelman Asset Management, "It was oecessary and we're glad to see it.'

The company had a 20 percent jump in profit last year, helped by strong sales of its oew family of digital hlack-andwhite copiers. Digital equipment now makes up more than 40 percent of the company's sales.

Xerox said it also planned to streamline worldwide manufacturing, logisocs,

distribution and service operations.

To improve productivity, the company said it would overhaul its administrative processes. One of its four U.S. eustomer administrative centers will be elosed, and the other three centers will be refocused by customer segment. It did not identify the center being closed.

Xerox said that within three to four years, it expected to save S1 billion annually from the initiatives.

This is the second major joh reductioo at Xerox in the last five years. From 1993 to 1995, the company eliminated about 12,000 jobs to cut costs and improve efficiency.

During the last two years, the company has added 4,000 jobs. Xerox's sales last year totaled \$18.2 hillioo, or about \$199,000 per employee.

Hewlett-Packard geocrated \$352,000 in sales for each of its workers, for a total of \$42.9 hillion in the fiscal year ended October 1997.

Bank Merger Puts Pressure on U.S. to Change Laws

By Jill Dutt and John M. Berry Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The proposed merger of Citicorp and Travelers Group puts the powerful strategie visioo of two of the dominant U.S. financial concerns on a collision course with the decadesold regulatory philosophy of the federal

The outcome is impossible to predict, analysts said. Either federal policy to-ward financial institutions will adapt to the competitive realities of the 21st cen-

tury, or the new Citigroup will be forced to abandon a large portion of its strategy of providing a global supermarket for financial services.

"Tomorrow is suddenly here," said John Duncan, a partner at the law firm of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. "Instead of talking about the emergence of the global universal bank, we're talking about it being here - and in the U.S., and not just in Switzerland."

Congress has spent decades in fruitless wrangling over bow to modernize the nation's Depressioo-era laws that

require strict separation among banks, securities firms and insurance companies, Last week, House leaders withdrew a bill supported by the Banking Committee chairman, Jim Leach, that attempted to tear down those walls, after colleagues made it clear that it would not pass. Mr. Leach, a Repoblican from

Iowa, said be would try again. For Ciogroup to become a true global firm that sells insurance, accepts deposits, sells stock and manages investments, Congress will need to significantly alter the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act and the 1956

Bank Holding Company Act.

'The Citicorp-Travelers merger underscores the fact that developments in the marketplace are rapidly overtaking outdated laws and regulations," a spokesman for Merrill Lyncb & Co. said. "It highlights the oeed for Coogress to act swiftly to modernize laws governing the financial system."

Citibank, a federally chartered bank holding company, would have been on shaky legal ground if it had applied to its

See RULES, Page 15

Financial Sector Sees 2 New Linkups

Conseco to Acquire Green Tree, and Household to Purchase Beneficial

NEW YORK — Consolidation in the financial industry continued Tuesday as Conseco Inc. announced it was buying Green Tree Financial Corp. for \$7.6 billion and Household International Inc. said it would huy Beneficial Corp. for

\$8.6 hillion. The announcements came only a day after Citicorp, America's second-higgest banking company, agreed to merge with the financial-services concern Travelers Group for about \$70 billion in what would be the biggest cor-

porate combination on record. The insurance provider Conseco and Green Tree said their stock deal would create a company with more than 11 million eostomers and a market valuation of more than \$20 billion. Stephen Hilbert, Conseco's chair-

man, president and chief executive, said the deal diversified its sources of revenue and profit, gave it more ways to sell insurance and solidified its 'middle America" consumer franchise. Buying Green Tree allows Conseco to expand into consumer finance. "The

financial-services industry is converging rapidly," and huying Green Tree "opens up several new, higher-growth markets," Mr. Hilbert said.

The purchase also helps Conseco grow a year after Mr. Hilbert said he expected growth through acquisioons to

Mr. Hilbert said Larry Coss, who founded Green Tree in 1975, would continue as Green Tree's chairman and

chief executive officer. Conseco, based in Carmel, Indiana, has more than 9 million policyholders and is one of the leading providers of health and life insurance and retirement

Greeo Tree is a leading lender for mobile homes and provides other loans to both consumers and husinesses through 200 offices across the country. It will continue to operate from its existing headquarters in St. Paul, Min-

On the New York Stock Exchange, Conseco's shares tumbled \$7.275 to close at \$49.875, while Green Tree jumped \$10 a share to end at \$39.

But some analysts said Conseco was paying too much.
"The market doesn't like this deal,"

said Cathy Scifert, a Standard & Poor's Corp. analyst. The purchase is "a departure from Conseco's strategy" of selling life and health insurance and anninties, she said.

Mr. Hilbert huilt Conseco using his

stock to snap up rivals, purchasing 19 companies in the past 16 years. Last year, be said that acquisioons would slow because insurers were becoming too expensive, forcing his com-

The deal, which has been approved by the boards of both companies, is subject to approval by their sharehold-

ers and by regulators. Green Tree stockholders will own

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bined company. Under terms of the agreement, each of Green Tree's commoo shares will be converted into 0.9165 of a share of Conseco commoo stock, the companies said.

The transaction is expected to be completed in the third quarter.

In another takeover announced Tuesday, Household International agreed to huy Beneficial for more than \$8.6 hillion, the companies said, removing one of its main consumer finance compet-

Finn M.W. Caspersen, chief execntive of Beneficial, will be ehairman of the combined company.

Household, based in Prospect Heights, Illinois, expects to take a \$1 billion charge when the transaction eloses. The acquisition is expected to add to Household's earnings in 1999. The purchase, which requires share-holder and regulatory approval, is expected to close in the third quarter.

"Beneficial is definitely extracting its pound of flesh in terms of price, said Mark Dawson, a senior portfolio manager at Rainier Investment Manment, which owns about 550,000 Household shares. Still, "it is a great purchase for Household," he said.

Beneficial said Feh. 17 it was ex-ploring a possible sale and other options pany to focus on increasing its insurance to lift its share price. Beneficial shares rose 37 percent that day.

Beneficial shares were quoted up \$5.75 in late trading at \$136.25, while Household shares were off \$8.25 at approximately 38 percent of the com-(AP, Bloomberg) \$13g.50.

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Very briefly:

 Blackstone Hotel Acquisitions Co. agreed to buy Savoy Hotel PLC for £520 million (\$863 million), giving the U.S. investment company control of four of London's most famous hotels. Savoy hotels include Claridge's, the Berkeley and the might be emerging from a six-year Connaught in London, as well as the Lygon Arms in the Cotswolds region of England.

· Wachovia Corp. plans to make acquisitions in the Southeastern states that would raise its asset size 54 percent to about \$100 billion by 2000. Its chief executive officer, L.M. Baker Jr., said Wachovia, a bank holding company based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, made acquisitions in Virginia and Florida last year and wanted to expand further in those states. • Intel Corp. is investing in closely held Quokka Sports and will help the company develop ways to deliver sports-related

content over high-speed connections, Quokka said. Price Waterhouse added 150 partners to its U.S. offices and 142 partners in Europe, a record increase. The accounting and consulting concern, which is preparing to merge with Coopers & Lyhrand LLP, now has about 1,200 U.S. partners.

· Boeing Co. named Richard James president of Boeing Europe. Mr. James, who will work from the aerospace giant's European headquarters in Brussels, will be the company's top executive in Europe, the company said. Mr. James had been Boeing's vice president for commercial business development io the United States since May 1996.

Staples to Buy an Internet Retailer

Bloomberg News

WESTBOROUGH, Massachusetts -- Staples Inc. agreed Tuesday to buy closely held Quill Corp. for about \$685 million in stock to increase its sales of office supplies to businesses through the Internet.

Quill had 1997 sales of \$550 millioo. Staples's contract and

Quill had 1997 sales of \$550 million. Staples's contract and commercial husiness, which delivers office supplies to husinesses, had sales of about \$1 hillion, or 20 percent of the total.

Yen Rises Amid Talk of 'Bold' Action

NEW YORK - The dollar fell against other major currencies Tuesday amid expectations Japan would take decisive steps to bolster its flagging economy and amid a better-than-expected German unemploy-

ment report. The dollar lost ground against the yen after Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Japan would soon take "bold" steps to lift the economy, and some traders expected the measures to include income-tax cuts.

Concern that Japan may sell some of its \$224 billion in foreign-currency reserves to prop up the yen also hurt the U.S. currency, investors said.

"Coocern about intervention is always there," said Sykes Wilford.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

a fund manager at CDC Investment Management. "Look at how many billions of dollars they have in reserves, so they can play any game they want."

The dollar fell to 133.480 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 134.705 yeo Monday. It also fell to 1.8373 Deutsche marks from 1.8406 DM amid signs Germany's ecocomy slump as data showed that unemployment had declined.

We've seeo some slightly stronger German data in the last few days, and that's given the mark a lift," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at DKB International in London, though he sees the dollar rising tal and Northwest airlines against the mark in the second

"German unemployment wasn't quite as bad as people expected," Mr. Wilford said. Still, he said, people are going to realize the U.S. and Europe are in different places. The bottom line is, Germany has to keep interest rates where they are."

Against other currencies, the dollar fell to 1.5242 Swiss francs from 1.5269 francs and to 6.1620 French francs from 6.1750 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6674 from \$1.6630.

Mr. Hashimoto is expected to hold news conference Wednesday or Thursday, government officials said. He last held a special news con-ference Dec. 17, when he announced ference Dec. 17, when he announced talks under way. The two airlines an income-tax reduction amounting control most of the traffic on the to 2 trillion veo (\$148 billion).

The prime minister is under pressure at home and abroad to cut taxes

Motorola Cuts Short Stocks' Record Run

Compiled by Our Staff From Disposities

NEW YORK - Stocks fell sharply Tuesday as a discouraging outlook from Motorola aggravated lingering profit worries a day after falia Investments, said. the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 9,000 points for the first time.

Motorola lowered its estimate for semiconductor industry sales growth by about half — intensifying concern that earnings from other companies will fall short of expectations.

The market is still perceived as ager with Advanced Investment Management in Pittsburgh.

"Anything that threatens them is seen as trouble."

8,956.50 after ending at a record 9,033.23 oo Monday. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index dropped 11.85 economic cooditions there. to 1.109.54, and the Nasdag com-posite index fell 30.47 to 1,798.67.

"I am fearful we are going to see more and more pronounced warnings for next quarter." Peter Cardillo, director of research at West-

Several major companies, particularly in the computer industry, have forecast that first-quarter earn-

ings and sales will fall short of Wall Semiconductor companies fell

U.S. STOCKS

being strong, but technology shares the most after Motorola said comhave been in the vanguard," said puter-chip industry sales would John Niedenberger, a money man- grow between 6 percent and 8 percent this year. It previously forecast a 13 percent to 15 percent increase.

The maker of computer chips and en as trouble." wireless phone equipment also said
The Dow Jooes industrial average first-quarter earnings had plunged closed 76.73 points lower at 45 percent and warned that it expected prices for products sold in Asia to fall further because of poor

Motorola reported first-quarter earnings of \$180 million, down from

Sales rose 4 perceot to \$6.9 billion. Motorola fell 61/2 to 531/2. Intel declined 11/2 to 725/s, and Microsoft

dropped 21/2 to 87 5/16.

"It's another indication that there will be more consolidation in varivice president and trader at Interstate/Johnson Lane in Atlanta. American depositary receipts of British Petroleum rose 11/16 to 883/8 after it said it planned to buy back \$2 billion of its own shares oext year and expected to lift its profit by 50 percent by 2002.

Du Pont rose 4 13/16 to 721/2 on news it plans to reorganize to focus on agricultural, hiotechnology and pharmacentical husinesses.

In the bond market, U.S. bonds

\$325 million in the like 1997 period. were little changed as investors sought more signs the economy was losing steam.

Re

"I don't think we see a major definitive move down in yields from Citicorp fell 14% to 165% and here without a significant sign of Travelers Group declined 41/2 to 681/2 weakness," said Steven Merrell of a day after they announced a stock American Express Asset Manageswap to form the world's biggest ment. The benchmark 30-year financial company. But many Treasury bond fell 6/32 to 104 1/32, traders saw announcements of more mergers as a bullish sign.

taking the yield up to 5.84 percent from 5.82 percent Monday.

Separately, Edward Yardeni and Deborah Johnson, economists at ons industries," said Dong Myers, a Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, are predicting far lower Treasury yields in the coming two years, indicating that they see this as a good time to buy bonds. In a report dated Friday, they forecast that the yield on the 30year issue would fall to 5 percent this year, 4 percent in 1999 and 3 percent in 2000. Their analysis cited falling commodity prices and "de-flationary winds" from Asia. They also predicted a slowdowo in U.S. economic growth.

(AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

U.S. Airlines Weigh Alliance Options

By Frank Swoboda Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON - The U.S. airline industry is on the verge of a new round of consolidation, this time through alliances rather than mergers to create a handful of dominant do-

mestic airlines, industry sources say. The partnership proposed in January between Cootinen-- the first domestic alliance in the U.S. industry has triggered discussions among the remaining major

airlines, which are trying to strengthen their positions. A marketing alliance would allow two airlines to act in some ways as a single carrier, sharing schedules and even profits in what amounts to a virtual merger without the financial and employment consolidations of an actual corporate marriage. The airlines thereby avoid the capital expenditures required to extend their

routes into each other's territory. USAirways and Delta Airlines are central players in the round of East Coast, serving as feeders for the profitable transcontinental and overseas flights of other carriers, such as United and American. The rush to find partners de-

how these guys are going to act," reported to be in talks would consaid Daryl Jenkins, director of the ment publicly on the discussions.

the consumer impact.

"I don't know that there is a model out there that would tell me issue April 30. None of the airlines Aviatioo Institute at George Washington University, a research center. "Last year I had no idea that all this would be going on at this time."

USAirways and Delta Airlines are central players in the round of talks under way.

> Ed Faberman of the Air Carriers Association, which represents smaller, low-fare airlines, expressed concern about the way the trend is strengthening the domination of the major airlines. "They've divided up the country and each controls a cer-tain part," he said. "They don't compete with each other."

Julis Maldutis, an industry analyst with Salomoo Smith Barney in New York, called the move toward alliances "the last stage of the industry consolidation that began with airline deregulation.

Any alliances would require the approval of the Transportation Department, which has yet to rule on the veloped so suddenly that few ana- also is concern in Congress about the the idea, American lost interest

lysts are willing to venture a guess at competitive impact of alliances, and the House subcommittee on aviatioo is scheduled to hold hearings on the reported to be in talks would com-

United is talking to Delta and USAirways, according to sources, but the talks with Delta appear to be further along. The discussions, said

a source, "just popped up" after the Continental-Northwest deal was announced. He said all the discussions had been "market-driven in response to what consumers are looking for from the industry.

USAirways officials would oot confirm that they were involved in talks with United. But industry officials said USAirways would be a good fit for United because it would provide the East Coast feeder operation United needs. An alliance with Delta would pit the two airlines against each other for the high-yield transcontinental business.

American also is holding discussions with USAirways, sources said, but it was onclear how far along the talks had progressed.

Both United and American coo-

sidered purchasing USAirways then USAir - in the mid-1990s, but United backed away when its pilots Continental-Northwest deal. There union balked. Once United dropped

Firm Agrees To Record Fine Of \$110 Million

WASHINGTON - The largest fine in U.S. antirust history, \$110 million, was agreed to Tuesday by the leading U.S. producer of graphite electrodes as it admitted having conspired to fix the price of the heat source for steel minimills.

UCAR International Inc., based in Danbury, Connecticut, agreed to plead guilty to the charges and pay the fine, which is sobject to court approval, the Justice Department announced. The largest previous fine was \$100 millioo paid by Archer Daniels Midland Co. for pricefixing in the food and feed additives lysine and citric acid.

"UCAR International has agreed to pay the largest fine in antitrust history," Attorney General Janet Reco said. Officials of the Justice Departmeot's antitrust divisioo made clear they hoped to charge other electrode producers as well, with UCAR's cooperatioo.

The government said the international conspiracy to fix graphite electrode prices began by July 1992 and cootinued un-

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EUROPE

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aviners, who have a mons of dollars avings stashed away, are never gong, are rever gong, the rest of the work. But Japan's macroeconomic policy covernment keeps offering what awrence Summers, rightly calls in phantom span fiscal policy phantom span amorrams and voodoo tax cittles.

ng programs and voodoo tax cut to only have not stimulated the last time of shally the nattacting at a time of already the rowth, à la Herbert Hoover. Japan needs an economic revolution or now, though, there is no naling opposition figure there to another than revolution c. nd lead that revolution. So commercia and its G-7 partners will be y hammering Japan, or a majore omic catastrophe will do ii. by he

The New York Times

Plan for Toky

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To ensure that Japan the these or other recommendant seriously. II mught be necessary for world leaders to convent extraordinary session of a World Trade Organization

It was John Maynard Kork who proposed in the 1940 in a world trade body shouldbe emergence measures for the dling threats to the trading a tem arising from thronk a pluses as well as he excessive delicity

Perhaps it is time for the WTO to come to gop, white long-recognized amblems. way that would encourage DREE SUFFULLE TO CONSIDER therough opening of its met; to both domestic adjuste

The writer premium Economic Strategy base. committated this corresp The West, the Pre-

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matter to be the tax cuts and stuff a long into their mattresses. One reason is

To Buy Unit nio their mattresses. One reason by many in Japan is so expend Of Sara Lee

LONDON — Imperial Tobacco Group PLC agreed Tuesday to buy Sara Lee Corp.'s Netherlands-based Douwe Egberts Van Nelle for 2.25 billion guilders (\$1.08 billion). making the British company No. 1 in the growing market for hand-rolling

The purchase gives Imperial — the maker of John Player Special and Lambert & Butler cigarettes — a dominant position in the European roll-your-own market, which has grown as cigarette sales have stag-nated Imperial shares rose 2g pence, or 6.5 percent, so close at 458. Sara Lee was trading late in the day in New York at \$63.375, up \$1.375. Imperial, spun off by Hanson PLC in 1996, has tried to grow out-side Britain, where rising tobacco taxes have hit cigarette sales, and the Douwe Egberts purchase will make it the top hand-rolled tobacco seller in markets including the Nether-

lands and Australia. Imperial, which owns Britain's market-leading Golden Virginia brand of hand-rolling tobacco, will acquire the Drum and Van Nelle brands and raise its share of the worldwide hand-rolled market from 5 percent to 32 percent, Gareth Dayis, Imperial chief executive, said.

Sara Lee, meanwhile, leaves a business that is under regulatory pressure to focus on products such as cakes and Champion sportswear. 'Sara Lee has been looking to get

out for a while, and it's a very good fit for Imperial," said Jonathan Fell an analyst at Merrill Lynch. Handrolling tobacco, he said, "is an area where they already have expertise." Imperial will not buy Douwe Egberts's small U.S. utit, which makes up less than 3 percent of its sales, and Sara Lee said it would close that unit by July 1. Imperial is to pay Sara Lee an initial \$370 mil-

time charge of 49 Deutsche marks (\$26.62) for households that change to another company but want to keep their phone number.

who switch to its rivals.

Klaus-Dieter Scheuerle, head of the telecommunications regulatory agency, denied the request, saying that customers are entitled 10 use their phone number in the same way they are entitled to use their street address.

He said he expected Telekom to challenge the ruling in court.

Bonn Rejects Telekom Fee Policy

BONN - Defending Germany's newly open telephone household phone service opened market, government regulators reto competition on Jan. 1. fected Tuesday a fee that Deutsche Last month, regulators rejected

Telekom AG, the former monoa Telekom plan to charge compoly, wanted to charge customers peting telephone companies 28.80 DM a month for each line to a Telekom had proposed a onehousehold customer

Hours before the ruling Tuesday, Telekom scaled back a pro-posal for a fee of 49 DM for households that use another company only for long-distance calls, Mr. Scheuerle said.

He said Telekom bad been unable to "convincingly explain" its calculation of that levy. The new plan calls for the one-

time fee to start at 49 DM but drop to 20 DM by 2000. It was unclear when regulators would rule on it.

Thorn's stores in America operate

under the names Rent-a-Center,

REMCO and U-Can-Rent. The U.S.

operations are Thorn's biggest busi-

ness, followed by its stores in Bri-

Credit Lyonnais Securities, said a

U.S. purchaser seemed likely be-

cause Thorn was marketing its U.S.

U.S. stores on the market after ex-

ecuoves began an internal review of

the company's strategy in Novem-

ber, when they said they believed

Thom said it expected to make a

Thoro's shares were undervalued.

Thorn said it decided to put its

operations.

late May.

High Low Close Pres

Boise Index: 928.77 Previous: 938.83

Oslo

Rodney Forrest, an analyst at

Telekom has been hit with set-backs since the German market for in that just when it's finished paying these massive amounts in building up its East German network, competition comes along," said Guy Peddy, an analyst at Bear, Steams.

Competitors such as Mannesmann Arcor, a joint venture led by Mannesmann AG, and O.tel.o, a joint venture of RWE AG and VEBA AG, have said that the fees Deutsche Telekom wants to levy have confused consumers. The fee should be only 5 to 10 DM, in line with U.S. rates, rivals say.

Deutsche Telekom argues that it should not subsidize competitors and that the fee is justified because of its investment to upgrade Germany's telephone network, particularly in Eastern Germany.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Thorn Attracts Takeover Suitor As It Offers to Sell U.S. Unit

Thorn, which fell on tough times after splitting from EMI Group LONDON - Thorn PLC said Tuesday that its efforts to sell its PLC, its partner in the music instores in the United States had atdustry, in 1996, warned in February tracted a suitor who might try to buy that a decline in its rental revenue the whole company, and the combase together with the continued pany's shares rose 38 percent. strength of the pound would hit its 1997-98 profit.

Thorn, which operates stores that rent appliances that become the property of customers after a specified number of payments, would not comment on potential bidders and said negotiations were "at a very early stage.

Analysts said potential suitors included a U.S. rival, Renters Choice Inc. Thorn's sbares surged to close at 221.5 pence (\$3.6g), up 60.5. Thorn confirmed that it was trying to sell its U.S. operations, which include 1,400 stores.

The company did not say whether it would delay a review of offers for its U.S. business in light of the potential bid for the company. Thorn said it would announce the conclulion in cash, followed by annual pay-ments totaling about \$710 million.

sions of the review no later than May 27, when it will post its earnings.

Environmentalists Set Back at WTO

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — In a decision that could undercut the use of trade sanctions to promote global environmental goals, the World Trade Organization has ruled that the United States was wrong to prohibit shrimp imports from countries that failed to protect sea turtles from being killed by shrimping boats.
The decision Monday by a

three-member panel in Geneva was the latest sign that when free trade conflicts with environmental protection, the international trade body is unlikely to swerve from its central mission of promoting trade.

The United States requires shrimpers in its waters to equip nets with metal grills that keep out large animals, and in 1989 Congress passed a law prohibiting shrimp imports from countries that did not require these devices in their fleets.

BP Says Net Will Grow 50% by 2002

LONDON - British Petroleum PLC said Tuesday it planned to repurchase \$2 billion of its shares next year and would increase profit by 50 percent by 2002 even if oil prices did not recover from their recent slump.

Europe's second-biggest oil company, behind Royal Dutch/Shell Group, first signaled its intendon to make a share repurchase in August, though until Tuesday it did not say how much the plan would cover.

The new goals, unveiled in a briefing to analysts, underscored the strength of BP's finances even after a 36 percent fall in crude oil prices since October.

The improved BP targets "show how well managed they are," said John Hatherly, the head of research at M&G Investment Management. "The change has been phenomenal" from the 1980s, when sliding oil prices and a high debt load forced

BP to make major staff cuts.

Shares of BP rose 34.5 pence in London, to close at 912 pence (\$15.14). Last year, the company had net income before exceptional items of \$4.6 billion.

BP executives said the company would continue to cut costs and invest in new oil projects to increase oil production despite the slump in

Benchmark crude oil closed at \$13.71 a barrel in London on Tuesday, down from S21.75 in October, BP said that it had produced 2.7 billion barrels of oil in the last five vears and that output would rise by 25

percent in the next five. John Browne, the BP chief executive, said low prices were "not a crisis" and that the company expected the benchmark Brent crude oil price to average \$16 a barrel into the near future.

The briefing also included plans to raise the debt-to-capital ratio to 30 percent from about 23 percent. Debt is currently at about \$6.9 billion. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

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Very briefly:

 The European Commission is investigating whether the BBC's new 24-bour news channel is benefiting from illegal state aid as part of a broader inquiry into the way public broadcasters are funded.

• Spaint's unemployment rate fell to 19.84 percent of the work force in January from 20.27 percent in December, the Economy Ministry's Nacional Statistics Institute reported. The number of people unemployed in January declined by 77,000 from December, to 3,212,200. The Labor Ministry, meanwhile, published data for January, solely on the basis of people registered as unemployed, showing that the rate increased to 12.92 percent from 12.82 percent in December.

Olivetti SpA's Infostrada unit will pay 750 billion lire (\$412.7 million) over the next 14 years for the right to operate and develop the telecommunications infrastructure of Italy's state railroad, Ferrovie dello Stato, gaining a nationwide base for expanding its telephone services.

· Societe Generale de Belgique SA's shares rose sharply following reports that the French utility Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux SA was planning to buy the 36.6 percent of the Belgian company's shares it does not own.

 The European Investment Bank, the world's biggest borrower, plans to attempt to raise its capital to 100 billion Ecus (\$107.7 billion) from 62 billion Ecus, sources close to the Reuters. AFP, Bloomberg

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

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The Trib Index Prices as of 3.00 P.M. New York time. 228 222 222.50 225 195 195.50 273.50 223.50 275.50 223.50 223.50 223.50 225.50 Change 196,53 -210 **— 1.06** + 14.19 World Index 236,23 **—** 0.71 + 22,37 Europa 241.56 **— 11.73** — 4.63 + 11.84 S. America 154.52 -0.84**— 0.5**4 + 1.21 Capital goods + 14.60 232.15 -4.56+10.69- 11.10 Consumer goods 212.41 **— 4.44 — 2.05** + 8.95 Energy 31.14 18.36 12.12 7.50 4.54 5.07 + 19.10 Finance 196.16 +0.97+ 17.29 184.87 + 0.75 +0.41+10.79The International Herald Tribuna World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar value of 280 internationally Investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booldest is available by writing to The Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaute, 92521 Neutly Cedex, France.

Compiled by Bioombarg News.

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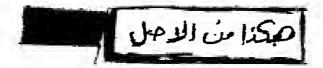
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ASIA/PACIFIC



Taiwan Asks China to Join Economic-Stability Drive

By Thomas Crampton International Heruld Tribune

TAIPEI - For the first time since the beginning of the Asian financial crisis last summer, Taiwan called Tuesday on rival authorities in Beijing to join it in helping to restore economic stability to the region.

In Beijing, the authorities immediately rejected the unusual overture from Taiwan's president and prime minister.
'I would like to use the oppor-

mairy to propose both sides of the strait to jointly invite Southeast Asian countries to discuss bow to stabilize the region's financial situarion and promote regional economie growth," Prime Minister Vincent Siew said in Parliament. His remarks were also broadcast on state

He added that the two sides could meet to "try to find a solution." President Lee Teng-bui echoed Mr. Siew's comments, telling a U.S. congressional delegation that bis

join efforts to tackle the regional rencies and prompting Thailand, billion-dollar donation to kick off a ident Lee made a visit to the United regional fund to aid Southeast Asian States in 1995. Presse reported.

carried out" as the island bids to through relatively unscathed. display its "unshakable responsi-

assistance from the International "Concrete measures have been Monetary Fund, Taiwan has come

The Taiwan dollar, a tightly conbility" as a member of the Asia- trolled currency, has fallen by a small

Taipei proposed that it and Beijing host talks with Southeast Asian nations on promoting regional financial stability and economic growth. Beijing quickly rejected the unusual overture.

Pacific region, he said. But in Beijing, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhu Bangzao, said, Taiwan authorities have no night to participate in something that has to be done by sovereign states."

China considers Taiwan a renegade province and has repeatedly opposed the island's efforts to assist the crisis-plagued economies of Southeast Asia.

As the economie crisis rolled government would ask Beijing to across Asia last year, devaluing eur-

fraction of the amount that many other regional currencies have lost, and Taipei has one of the world's largest foreign-reserves holdings.

Delegations of Taiwan business executives have been offered various incentives - including lowcost loans and technical assistance — to encourage them to scour the region for investments as part of the government's "look south"

Late last year, Taiwan offered a

economies, an idea that was dropped because of Beijing's objection.

Meanwhile, leaders of Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines, none of whom officially recognize Taiwan's sovereignty. have sidled up to Taipei officials despite warnings from China.

China has denounced Taiwan for what it describes as an effort to exploit the region's economic misfortune to gain political ground.

It has said that while it does not object to the development of nongovernmental economic relations, Taiwan should provide no official

Taipei and Beijing have mounted rival elaims that they represent China ever since Communist troops forced Nationalists to retreat to Taiwan at the end of a civil war in

Both sides agree on the principle of reunification, but negotiations

Since last November, relations have been warming, with an exchange of faxed messages on negotiations oow taking place on an almost weekly basis.

In his speech, Mr. Siew repeated Taipei's call for the reunification of China "under the principles of democracy, freedom and equitable distribution of wealth."

'We understand the bid could take an indefinite period of time, and despite political diversity in the process there is still room for cooperation in the internacional community," Mr. Siew said.

Despite the relative strength of Taiwan's economy, the central bank has recently begun pressing foreign banks not to engage in speculation against the Taiwanese currency or even make public predictions of where the currency's future value.

On Tuesday, the central bank said it was investigating irregularities in have been slow and were broken off Citibank's foreign-exchange operfor more than two years after Pres- ations over the past few months.

Investor's Asia Hong Kong Hang Seng Straits Times 154001 Prov. Exchange index 11,049.43 11,052.68 -0.03 Closed 1,549.93 Singapore " Straits Times 2,794.80 2,795.60 -0.03 All Ordinaries Tokyo Nikkei 225 15,978.72 15,705.99 +1.74 Kuala Lureous Composite Closed 663.77 SET. 430.04 442.96 -2.92 Bangkok Composite index 459.58 435.92 +5,43 Stock Market Index. 9,265,68 9,239.48 Manila 2,183.35 2,180,48 +1,06 Jakarta Composite index Closed 5,26.141 Wellington NZSE-40 2,296.26 2,303.42 4,194.27 4,170.22 +0,58 Sensitive Index

Where Is Peregrine's Lee? In the Same Limbo as Asia

Bloomberg News

HONG KONG - Three days before Christmas, Andre Lee sold his mint-green borne overlooking the South China Sea, a \$6.5 million property that the 34-year-old bond trader bought when he was earning almost that much a year in bonuses alone.

Three weeks later, Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd., which the Korean-Canadian belped build into a powerhouse in Asian bonds, collapsed after its trades went wrong; and Andre Lee, the man at the center of it all, virtually disappeared.

Where is Mr. Lee now? Still in Hong Kong, in a more expensive home half the size, and still looking for his next trade. Few former colleagues report having heard from the man whose fixed-income department many insiders blamed for erty prices were near record highs Peregrine's failure.

Did Mr. Lee know on that gray Monday when he sold his bome that Peregrine was already mortally wounded, that its high-flying days were almost over? He won't say, now lives sold last month for 36.8 Mr. Lee has not returned telephone calls from Hoog Kong-based report-

ers since Peregrine failed.

As much as anything, Mr. Lee's story is Asia's story, a tale of bankers, story is Asia's story, a tale of bankers, the collapse, Mr. Lee said it was he told Dong-A "ridiculous" to blame Peregrine's Korean newspaper.

tries undone by the lure of easy money. Peregrine and others kept lending to Asian companies right up until Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea admitted last year that they were broke and called in the International Monetary Fund. Then the bottom fell out of Asian stock and currency markets. When the Indonesian currency collapsed, it eventually took Peregrine with it because of loans that Peregrine's hard-charging bond department had authorized.

Few bankers - al Peregrine or other companies — saw the crisis coming. Hong Kong land records show that a company of which Mr. Lee himself is a director bought the apartment where he now lives for 57.5 million Hong Kong dollars (\$7.4 million) last July, when propand Asian currencies had just begun to slide. Since then, bome prices here tumbled by about a third. Apartments the same size as Mr. Lee's in the development where he million dollars and 39.88 million dollars, according to a real-estate agent at First Pacific Davies Ltd.

Airlines in Asia Face Dim Outlook

MELBOURNE - Standard & Poor's Corp. issued a bleak forecast for Asian airlines Tuesday and said traffic was unlikely to recover for at least two years. Dunean Warwick-Champion, associate director of S&P. said passenger traffie in the region had fallen heavily but said

a recovery was still distant. "I really think that we are going to continue to see these sort of conditions going right through until the year 2000," he said. "The projections I am putting in place are not showing any significant increase in passenger numbers coming through this region."

Warwick-Champion said in a recent article that small airlines with narrow passenger bases and high gearing ratios. such as Korean Airlines and Asiana Inc., would find the market difficult.

bond business for its downfall, "It was the bond business that belped Peregrine grow into a profitable company, and despite some difficalties we reported profits in 1997," he told Dong-A Ilbo, a South

South Korea Considers Moves To Lure Capital From Abroad

SEOUL - South Korea is considering new ways to lure foreign investment and shore up its export drive to limit the damage from the plummeting Japanese yen and to prepare for a possible Chinese eurrency devaluation.

Finance Minister Lee Kyu Sung is set to lead a meeting Wednesday of government officials and advisers on attracting foreign capital. Tax breaks and ways to simplify investment procedures are expected to be at the top of the agenda.

The move comes as South Korea's biggest exporters, including Hyundai Motor Co. and Daewoo Electronics Co., say their export targets could prove barder to meet as Japanese rivals benefit from the ability to reduce prices in foreign markets as the yen drops against the dollar and other major currencies.

In Tokyo trading Tuesday, the dollar slipped to 134.20 yen from 135.05 yen on Monday, but many analysts say the dollar is beaded toward 140 yen and beyond. "It's going to be a real problem

for us if the yen reaches 140," said Chung Je Hyun, a spokesman at Daewoo Electronics Co. News that the government would

act to shore np exporters helped the

benchmark Korea Composite stock index rally 5.4 percent, to close at 459.58 Tuesday.

The won has strengthened 14.1 percent against the yen this year, but it is still down by a third against the Japanese currency over the past 12 months. The won numbled loward the end of 1997 as Seoul's own financial crisis deepened, leading to a record \$60 billion bailout arranged the International Monetary

In 1997, Sonth Korea and Japan shared 24 items among their respec-tive top 50 exports, led by semiconductors, cars and ships. For Korea, exports of these items totaled 42.2 percent of all exports.

Separately, South Korea delayed until Wednesday in New York the pricing of its first issue of sovereign bonds, a Finance Ministry official said Tuesday. We decided to delay the pricing

date by one day as there were a lot of questions, including concerns about the recent weakening yeo from some investors," the official said. South Korea has registered with

the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to sell up to \$5 billion in bonds. It was widely expected to sell \$3 billion worth of bonds. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Very briefly:

 Whirlpool Corp. will buy an additional 15.6 percent stake in its Indian manufacturing unit for 206.5 million rupees (\$5.23 million), raising Whirlpool's stake in the unit to 71.42 percent. Whirlpool will buy the shares from Jamshed Desai, Whirlpool of India's chairman.

 Thailand's cabinet approved a budget of 800 billion baht (\$19.56 billion) for the year ending in September 1999, based on growth in gross domestic product of 1.2 percent.

· Vietnam's prime minister, Phan Van Khai, denied be had set a ceiling on rice exports to guard against food shortages caused by drought and said the country was on course to achieve its export target for 1998.

• The Bank of Japan's depoty governor, Yutaka Yamaguchi, said there was a need to be concerned about falling prices in Japan. Answering questions in Parliament, Mr. Yamaguchi said the central bank had little room to try to lead short-term interest rates any lower.

• The Japan Center for International Finance, a group backed by private Japanese financial companies, will assess the credibility of eight credit-rating concerns, including Moody's Investors Service Inc. and Standard & Poor's Corp. of the United States, Moody's cut its outlook on Japan's sovereign debt to negative Friday.

Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters, AP

Change of Guard at Broken Hill.

SYDNEY — Broken Hill Proprietary Co. said Tuesday it had appointed its chief operating officer, Ron McNeilly, to run its day-lo-day operations, officially ending the reign

of its former chief executive, John Prescott. 'Mr. Prescott's resignation from Australia's largest resources company was announced March 4, when he took the blame for falling profit and a plunging share price. He agreed to stay on during an international search

LEADERS: The Co-Chiefs of Citigroup Have Contrasting Styles

Continued from Page 11

as soon as practical, they would have side-by-side offices in the Citicorp tower and that they have not - and do not plan to — divvy up responsibilities. So far, the two have indeed been shar-

ing the big responsibilities. When they called Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, about 10 days ago, they did so on a conference call in which they characterized Mr. Green-span's response as "positive." When they called President Bill Clinton on Monday, they seemed amazed he took the call. After telling him of their plans, they talked about his trip to Africa, Mr.

A few Wall Street watchers suspect that this particular marriage may ultimately end in divorce.

who asked not to be identified.

Mr. Well had a very year taking home \$220 million in salary, bonus and stock options exercised. Beside him, Mr. Reed seems grossly underpaid, having made only \$4 million in salary and bonus last year because Citicorp's stock did not perform as well as expected.

The two already have saved the combined company a bit of money by brokering the deal themselves and avoiding the \$100 million they would have paid if investment bankers had been involved.

Both seem to be ambitious enough to rule just about any entity they could imagine, and each has nearly fallen off the ladder at times in their climb to the top. Mr. Weill started out as a lowly mes-

senger for Bear Stearns Cos. after gradu-

Carter, Berlind, Potoma & Weill. But on, he had a dream of creat world's largest financial-services firm. His career really took off at the helm

of Shearson, which acquired several brokerage firms in the '70s and '80s. Mr. Weill stumbled when he sold Sbearson to American Express Co., leaving in 1985 because he did not want to share power with the chief executive at the time, James Robinson. He later took over the running of Travelers. Mr. Reed, a graduate of the Massachu-

setts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management, started out in the back room of Citicorp, only to take over at a fresh-faced 45 from the legendary banker Walter Wriston. In the late 1980s. he, too, staggered. Citicorp was awash in bad real estate loans, and there was even ating from Cornell University. He bor-talk it might fail. But he recovered, bring-"This will never work," said one, rowed \$200,000 to form the firm of ing the bank back to profinability.



% Growth 1997/1996 +14.5%

Operating profit +18.2% Profit on ordinary activities before toxation and employee profit sharing +17.0% Not profit before copital gains and losses, 4.21 +12.8% after minority interests Earnings per share Cosh flow 6.77 +10.3% Shareholders' equity 15.6% +9.8%

RULES: Banking Merger Puts Pressure on U.S. to Change Laws

regulator, the Federal Reserve Board, for a waiver to buy Travelers, because Travelers' business of selling of property and casualty insurance is for-bidden for banks. Instead, Travelers applied to the Fed for a new bank holding com-pany charter. Under the law, new bank holding companies are allowed two years to divest "nonconforming" busi-nesses, and the Fed is allowed

to grant as many as three, oneyear extensions to that. This would give Citigroup up to 5 years to persuade Congress to change the laws. A House Banking Commit-

tee staff member said Monday that the bill sponsored by Mr. Leach had been rescheduled for floor action the week of May 4. "The Senate has been waiting for the House to act, and that is much more likely today because of the merger," the aide said.
Mr. Leach said, "This

merger underscores the need for prompt congressional action on financial-services modernization legislation to assure that America's competitive positioo abroad is enhanced, with proper function-

al regulation at home." Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York and Mr. Leach's Senate counterpart sounded his approval of the merger, too. People want improved financial services and the best products," he said. The reason for dividing fi-

nancial services so rigidly was the concern that a bank's deposits might be tapped to help a failing affiliate, possibly bringing down the bank, too.

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 11 The divisions were intended to limit risk, but the distinctions are breaking down.
Alan Greenspan, the Fed

chairman, told a House commerce subcommittee meeting last year, that "technology has already eroded many of the previous distinctions between banking and nonbank finance, thereby supporting the desirability, if not the necessity, of permitting the merging of all financial activities." The same forces, be added, also "are in the process of blurring the bound-aries between financial and nonfinancial businesses."

On another occasion last year, Mr. Greenspan signaled strongly that the Fed was not likely, in principle, to have any objection to the Citicorp-Travelers merger.

"There are real potential benefits to consumers of onestop shopping for loans, deposits, money-market accounts, securities and insurance," Mr. Greenspan said,

Schlumberger:

The undersigned announces that as from 20 April, 1998 at Kas-Associatie VV. Spuistraal 172, Amsterdam, the Certificates Schlumberger Limited repr. S shares of common stock of US\$ 0.01 per value, will be payable with Dfs. 2.00 not per Certificate repr. 5 shares and with Dfs. 40.00 net per Certificate repr. 100 shares. (div. per rec-date 19.02.98; US\$ 0.1875 per share). The dividend distribution is not subject to tan with holding at source.

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dated restrictions that stand in the way of lower cost and convenient delivery systems for our citizens."

The Fed's support for breaking down the financial services barriers can be seen best in the process it began in 1996 to 25 percent. the late 1980s, when it first allowed banks to be affiliated with securities dealers, including new subsidiaries, so

speaking for the Fed board. rities, for example, but had a "It is only artificial and outas well, could be affiliated with a bank, the Fed reasoned At first only 5 percent of the firm's revenue could come from its broker-dealer operations. Later that was raised to 10 percent and at the end of Even with the added pres-

sure from the merger, it is far from certain that a financial reform bill will pass, particlong as the firms were not principally" engaged in the broker-dealer business—that is, in the business of under- any additional competition writing and selling stocks, from any source, and bankers municipal bonds and the like. from those institutions have Major firms that deal the ears of many members of primarily in Treasury secu- Congress.

> FMG MIR SICAV Societé d'Investissement à Capital Variable 10A, Boulevard Royal, LUXEMBOURG R.C. Lanembourg B-53.392

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Ceneral Meeting of Shareholders of PMG MIR SICAV will be held at the registered office, 10A, Boulevard

on Thesday April 21, 1998 at 11 a.m.,

for the purpose of considering the following agenda: Management Report of the Directors for the year ended 31st December, 1997.

Report of the Statutory Auditor for the year ended 31st December, 1997.

Approval of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1997.

Approval of the Annual Accounts at the year stress 51st December, 1997 and appropriation of the exemings.
Discharge to the Directors in respect of the execution of their mandates.
Election of the Directors for a new term of one year.
Election of the Stamtory Anditor for a new term of one year.

The present notice and a form of proxy have been sent to all registered shareholders on record at March 26,1998. In order to amend the meeting, the swners of bearer shares are required to deposit their shares before April 14, 1998 at the Registered Office of the Company where proxy forms are available. The registered shareholders have to inform by mail (letter or proxy form).

the Board of Directors of their intention to assist at the meeting before By order of the Board of Directors

BUSINESS BY SECTOR IN 1997

Consolidated cosmetics sales rose 14.6% to FF 56.16 billion. Growth was driven by the increased pace of expansion in new markets, stronger positions for our U.S. subsidiary, which is established as the Group's second world centre, and the return to growth in Western Europe. Excluding the impact of exchange rates, cosmetics sales were up 9.3%, outstripping the increase for the world market as in previous years, according to our estimates.

Our U.S. subsidiary confirmed its status as the Group's second centre for creative strategy after Paris, enhancing the international scope of our hrands. US sales exceeded US\$ 2 billion. The increase expressed in French francs was nearly 23%. The Group, which currently geoerates a quarter of its sales in North America, has taken its place among the front-runners in make-up, hair colour and skin care in this zone and

In several European countries, particularly in the United Kingdom, sales rose at similar rates to those recorded in new markets. We expanded sales by nearly 8% in Western Europe.

Emerging markets already account for more than 15% of sales. We are continuing to step up our drive into these markets with growth of 27% in Asia excluding Japan, 35% in Latin America and 45% in Eastern Europe. Despite the economic fluctuations experienced by these countries, we firmly believe in their potential for rapid expansion, particularly in Asia, where the Group currently generates less than 6% of its total cosmetics sales.

Our determination to position L'ORÉAL PARIS amongst the world's top brands in the four corners of the world is expressed by the slogan: "L'ORÉAL, because I'm worth it'. Globalisation depends on the competitiveness of our products. We have therefore stepped up our research and development endeavours and have organised our laboratories around the Group's

Hand in hand with this international expansion, the Group rounded out its industrial facilities, notably in China, Poland, and Brazil. Value analysis endeavours were also continued during the year.

DERMATOLOGY

This sector's sales climbed to over FF 1.5 billion, up 52.6% (L'ORÉAL share: 50%). DIFFERIN treatment for mild acne, the first product developed by GALDERMA's research centre, has achieved very significant market share worldwide. The acquisition of the German company, BASOTHERM, has enabled us to establish a strong market presence in this country.

PHARMACEUTICALS

In 1997, SYNTHÉLABO increased turnover 12.6% to FF 11.74 billion, accounting for 14% of consolidated Group sales. SYNTHÉLABO's core strategy hinges on advanced research in three specialist fields (Central Nervous System, Cardiovascular and Internal Medicine) and on a strong market presence in Europe. The company is developing activities in cardiac pacing, urological devices, genenic medicines and OTC products.

DIVIDEND

At the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors of L'ORÉAL will propose a net dividend of FF 16 plus tax credit of FF 2, payable on 12 June 1998. This compares with a net dividend of FF 14 paid in 1997, on the same number of shares and investment certificates as last year (67,606,216).

For further linancial information, consult year bank, stockbioles, or plantiles and your newspaper or internal http://www.lovenhilmence.in/ L'ORÉAL - 41, rue Marine - 92117 CUCHY, France Id. (33°) (42.22.22.2)

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Herald Eribune SPORTS



Rudy Dhaenens, the former cycling world champion, who died Monday after a car crash.

Dhaenens Dies After Car Crash

Rndy Dhaenens, the former world cycling champion, died late Monday of car crash injuries, Belgian media reported Tuesday.

Dhaenens, who would have been 37 Friday, won the world title in Japan in 1990. He quit cycling in 1992 after heart problems.

He had been in a coma since hitting a pole on an exit of the Brussels-Ostend highway on Sunday. Dhaenens, a modest and popular sportsman, had been on his way to Meerbeke, where he was dne to commentate on the Tour of Flanders race for television.

 Tommy Smith, the former Liverpool and England soccer player, was hospitalized in serious condition Tuesday after his car left a highway and flipped over.

Smith, 53, a tongh-tackling defender, was a mainstay of the great Liverpool sides of the late 1960s and 1970s. Firefighters had to cut Smith out of the car. He was listed in "serious hut stable" condition at Ormskirk Hospital, near Liver-

• Kirhy Puckett, who retired from the Minnesota Twins after glaucoma left him hlind in his right eye, returned home following a weekend car crash that hospitalized him with cuts on his arm and head. Puckett was heading home with his father-in-law from a fishing trip when the car rolled over on its roof. Police said no drugs or alcohol were involved and that Puckett's eyesight was not a factor.

Lipinski May Turn Pro

ICE SKATING Tara Lipinski, the Olympic champion, said she innded to become a professiona figure skater.

'Now I'll have four-day weekends and be able to be with my family because they mean so much to me," she said. "I don't want to be 21 and not know my dad."

As a pro. Lipinski, who is 15, would be ineligible for amateur competitions and would need to receive reinstatement as an amateur to skate in the 2002 Olympics. Reinstatement hy skating authorities would not pose a problem.

"I realized after Nagano how important it is to me to be with my mom and dad and be all together and have fun and go out to dinner and really be a family again." (AP)

WORLD ROUNDUP A Young Man Exults, **An Old Man Dreams**

Wreh's Goal for Arsenal Sinks the Wolves

By Rob Hughes International Herald Tribune

LONDON - In the sporting arena, as so often in life, one man's joy is an-

At 13 minutes past noon Sunday, Christopher Wreh did a double back somersault in the wind and swirling rain after scoring the goal that took Arsenal to the final of the FA Cup. Amid the cheering in the stands, the white-haired figure of Sir Jack Hayward sat rigidly

With a single shot as true as a sniper's bullet, young Wreh had become the first refugee from war to score such an im-

EUROPEAN SOCCER

portant goal in the 126-year history of the cup and had extinguished Old Jack's lifelong dream of taking his team. Wolverhampton Wanderers, to Wemhley.

Sir Jack is the eternal optimist. You have to he to spend £40 million (\$64 million) on rehulding a destitute soccer clnh, and to fly 11 hours from Los Angeles to England to watch a game less than three weeks after undergoing triple heart hypass surgery, as Jack Hayward has done.

With God's will, Sir Jack, 74 and domiciled in the Bahamas, will return next year and the year after, until Wolves fulfill the dream born in him as an 8-year-old who slipped beneath the turnstiles to attend matches.

Losing hurts him as much as it does anyone, hnt he is a magnanimous man, a sport in the truest sense of the word, and he can appreciate the extraordinary circumstance that hrought Wreh to the English Midlands to end that dream for another 12 months.

Wreh was starting an FA Cup match for the first time. He was a substitute for a substitute, selected because one hy one the established Arsenal strikers ruled himself out. Ian Wright, on his day the sharpest goalscorer England has, was absent through injury. Dennis Berg-kamp, acclaimed as the English Professional Footballers' Association player of the season this very weekend, was suspended.

So, seven months after coming to Britain, seven years after getting out of Liberia on the last plane to evacuate refugees from the civil war, Wreh took their place. He scored the first time he played a league game for Arsenal, on March 11. He scored again a week ago and a third time in the Cup semifinal. Because Arsenal customarily scores a solitary goal a game and is expert at throttling the other team's attacks, all

He has repaid, in less than a month, the £300,000 Arsenal gave Monaco for him. He has begun to repay the faith Arsene Wenger, formerly coach to Monaco and now to Arsenal, put in him when Wreh was a boy of 14, scoring for the Monrovia team Invisible XI. At that time, Wenger had another Liberian. a

certain George Weah, under his wing. Weah and Wreh are cousins. And as Wenger coaxed the form out of Weah that was to make him the world's No. 1 player of 1996, so Weah persuaded the coach that there was another like him back home, the boy Wreh.

Another week, another minute in fact, and Wreh would not have made that plane, would not have used what few dollars he owned to hribe his way past military roadhlock guards who let him through hut cleaned out his pockets.

One imagines that scoring goals, hit-ting them crisply and cleanly and spon-taneously with his right foot, is not a problem to a young man — he is 22 who might otherwise have had to fight for survival with a submachine gun.

The cousins had no news from their families for the first three years of Wreh's time in Monaco, hut eventually word came that Christopher's seven sisters and nine brothers, as well as their parents, were safe.

It is also safe for him to visit them and to dispense to family and friends some of the wealth that is beginning to come his way from the millionaires' playground of European soccer.
"When I go back, I see the poverty is

ery bad," he says.

It is not the normal post-match conference: We are talking to an open, engaging, content young player to whom the sport is a release and a way of helping 10 of his brothers and sisters through school, and sponsoring other

If he is given the chance to lift the cnp, Wreh knows that Charles Taylor, Liberia's head of state, will send the presidential plane to bring home the hero. The previous president, Samuel Doe, loved sport," said Wreh, "and Charles Taylor does, too."

In the euphoria, no one seems to notice how incongruous it might be, laying on the private jet to acclaim an ordinary young man hlessed with a quick eye and a gifted shot who once scramhled to catch the last plane ont of the country.

There is a parallel here with another man, from an equally troubled country, Haile Gebrselassie. The Ethiopian runner is a world and Olympic champion and has set 12 world records over various distances. Gehrselassie has a similar, quiet, unassuming personality to Wreh. He hails from another large, impoverished family. Tournament promoters give him Mercedes cars. Gebrselassie neither drives nor wishes to.

The pace of Western acclaim is fast and foreign. If Wreh keeps up his scor-ing, some Hollywood producer will make a film of his life just as, last weekend, it was announced that a million dollar documentary is to be made about Gebrselassie in Los Angeles.

Sir Jack Hayward, his dream postponed, also headed for Los Angles, returning to the clinic to check that the emotions of sport had done no harm to

Rob Hughes is sports correspondent of The Times of London.

■ Real Disputes Crowd Figure

Real Madrid challenged UEFA, the governing body of European soccer, on Tuesday to prove that the club had exceeded the limit for its European Cup semifinal against Borussia Dortmund, Reuters reported from Madrid.

Real, which will appeal Wednesday against UEFA fines totaling 1.3 million Swiss francs (\$851,000), said it sold only 65,948 tickets for the match Wednesday in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, which has a capacity of 105,000. UEFA said the crowd was up to 20,000 higher because the club had ignored limits on the ca-

pacity in the standing area.
"We did not exceed the capacity," said Juan Antonio Samper, the cluh lawyer. "We would like UEFA to demonstrate how they calculated that 85,000 people were in the Bernaben.



Jesper Parnevik of Sweden blasting out of a trap on No. 2 at Augusta National Golf Club during practice Tuesday.

Mastering No. 16 at Augusta Is All

By Dave Anderson New York Times Service

Jack Nicklaus almost had a hole-inone there, hut Tom Watson once five-

putted there.
"I hate to say that green is unfair."
Masters win-Gary Player, a three-time Masters winner, said after four-putting there two years ago, "hnt that green is unfair."

That 16th green at Augusta National is considered the Masters' most treacherous. In this Sunday's final round, the Masters might turn on any hole, hut through the years it has often turned on the 16th, a par 3 of 170 yards to a sharply sloping green defended hy a serene pond and three gaping bunkers — to the left, the right and the rear.

'It's four different holes," Nicklaus, a six-time Masters winner, has said, "depending on where the cup is located."

For a change, Masters officials are considering a different Sunday pin position this year. The cup might be cut on the lower left of the green rather than where it usually has been, on the upper left, where Nicklaus almost had an ace when he won in 1986. With the cup cut down near the pond, the 16th could pro-

After winning last year by a record 12 strokes, Tiger Woods said he did not feel secure until his tee shot on the 16th had cleared the pond on the last of the back nine's five water holes. "You've seen it time and time again, year after year," Woods said. "Guys hit a couple of balls in the water, and there it goes."

In 1990, Raymond Floyd thought he was secure after lagging a long hreaking putt to tap-in range for a par at the 16th. Known for his competitive stare, he even smiled. Perhaps too relaxed, he three-putied the 17th and lost to Nick Faldo in a playoff.

"I'd never seen Raymond hreak his coocentration like that," another Masters golfer said later. "Even with a great putt there, the 16th got him.

Its most difficult pin position is usually used in Thursday's opening round - just above a ledge that might as well be a hump on the Olympic men's downhill ski run. That's where Watson fivepntted two years ago, then described his adventure as if he were a Minnesota weatherman.

"I went from 60 below," Watson aid, meaning 60 feet below the cup. "to 6 above, to 40 below, to 4 above, to 2 below, then I made it from there.

Dozens, if not hundreds, of Masters golfers have four-putted with the cup above that ledge, including Seve Balles-

On the Menu: Tiger Cholesterol

By Thomas Bonk Los Angeles Times Service

AUGUSTA, Georgia - The menu was cheesehurgers, grilled chicken sandwiches, french fries and vanilla and strawberry milk shakes.

"They said you could pick anything you want," said Tiger Woods, the defending champion here.

And so he did. You could check

your cholesterol level at the door Tuesday night at the Masters champions dinner, where Woods has come up with the menu.

Normally, the yearly feeding ritual in the clnhhonse at the end of Magnolia Lane isn't that big a deal — unless you count 1989, when the defending champion, Sandy Lyle of Scotland, served haggis.

But this year's dinner was different for another reason. What would be on the Woods menu became a topic of discussion once Fuzzy Zoeller made his ill-conceived remark that Woods should avoid ordering "fried chicken collard greens or whatever the hell they Even Zoeller, who earned his green Masters jacket in 1980, was to be on hand to sample it. So were the other former Masters champions who planned to show up, which brings up another issue: Can 96-year-old Gene Sarazen relate to a cheeseburger?

menn," Sarazen said. "Who ever heard of a cheeseburger as a dinner?" Well, Woods, for one. The basic

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problem here is that there's a 74-year age difference between Woods and Sarazen. Woods basically doesn't trust any food that can't be eaten in a car.
"Hey, it's part of being young," he

said. "I'm sure that's what they ate growing up. This is what I grew up eating, and that's what I still am eating. It's what I like to eat."

Other winners have served their favorites. Englishman Nick Faldo ordered fish and chips for last year's dinner. Texan Ben Crenshaw had barbecue in 1996, Spaniard Jose Maria Olazabal had hluefish in garlic, oil and parsley sauce in 1995, and Bernhard Langer had German wedding soup with turkey and stuffing in 1994. Sarazen's favorite remains the 1993 dinner, presented by Fred Couples: chicken cacciatore with spaghetti on the side.

It should be pointed out that dinner the regular menn at Augusta National, which is what Sarazen intended to do Tuesday night. Sarazen also decided against Lyle's haggis - minced sheep or calf organs mixed with suct. onions and oatmeal, then boiled in the stomach of the animal. "I had lamh chops," Sarazen said.

teros, whose explanation should be on a plaque near the green. "Well," he said, l miss, I miss, I miss, I make."

Three of his six victories turned there, including 1986 when his 5-iron curled just by the cup and stopped three feet away. Birdie 2. Moments later, Ballesteros chunked a 4-iron into the pond in front of the 15th green; when Nicklaus hirdied the 17th hole, be led by a stroke.

In 1975, Nicklaus holed a 40-foot hird-Nicklaus led by a stroke.

In 1963, Sam Snead was leading the Masters until he three-putted the 16th from 50 feet. Nicklaus holed a 13-foot hirdie putt to grah a one-stroke lead. As the 16th's official description says,

"With the green significantly sloping from right to left, an exacting tee shot is required to have a reasonable hirdie opportunity." But if you miss the green short or left from the tee, your ball is in the water. If you miss the green to the

the cup cut nearby. Billy Casper once tried to putt out of the sand. His ball scooted down the slope into the pond. He had a 7 there that day. In 1950 Herman Barron had an 11 there.

one — Johnny Dawson in 1949, Clive Clark in 1968, Corey Pavin in 1992 and Raymond Floyd in 1996.

much easier when you do not have to putt. As a Masters golfer once grumhled, "They should dynamite that green."

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But with the Masters' green jacket at stake Sunday, nobody has played or putted the 16th better than Nicklaus.

ie putt as Tom Weiskopf and Johnny Miller watched from the 16th tee. Weiskopf's fat 5-iron left him a 100-foot putt. Bogey 4. With that two-shot swing,

right, your chip shot is in jeopardy of sliding down the slope toward the pond. With his hall in the back hunker and

Since the 16th was lengthened in 1947 from its original 120 yards over a little creek, there have been four holes in

At Augusta National, the 16th hole is

Kings Stop Avalanche's Bid for Title

The Colorado Avalanche lost its fifth straight game, missing a chance to clinch the Pacific Division title. "This is an urgent time of the year, and if we don't get our game going, we won't be

NHL ROUNDUP playing at the end of May. ' said Keith Jones, a Colorado forward, after the Avalanche

Kings in Denver on Mon-Stephane Fiset, the Kings goalie, stopped 31 shots to end a personal four game losing streak and gain a career-

high 25th victory. Joe Sakic, the Avalanche star who recently returned from an extended injury. scored his second goal in as

many games. Patrick Roy made 35 saves but lost his fourth straight. Stars 4, Maple Leafs 2 Dallas, which leads the Central Division, snapped its three-

game losing streak against



Adam Burt, left, of the Hurricanes and Dmitri Kristich of the Bruins dueling for the puck in a game in Boston.

Joe Nieuwendyk scored olina goalie, gained his third twice as Dallas won for only the second time in cight games. The Stars had scored nine goals in their previous seven games,

consecutive shutout as the Hurricanes continued a late surge for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot. Carolina moved within Hurricanes 3, Bruins 0 In two points of Ottawa, which

Washington when Sebastien Bordeleau scored his second goal with 9:01 to play. The Canadiens, who outshot the Capitals, 36-18,

have seven games left. Nelson Emerson, Sami

Kapanen and Gary Roberts

scored for the Hurricanes,

who won for the 10th time in

Canadiens 2, Capitals 2 Montreal salvaged a tie in

their last 13 road games.

played much of the game as if they were on a power play. hut Olaf Kolzig made 34 saves on his 28th hirthday. Islanders 3, Lightning 0 in amna Tampa, Wade Flaherty

stopped 26 shots and Zigmund Palffy extended his point streak to six games as the Islanders recorded a team-record third consecutive shutout. Oilers 3, Canucks 2 In Edmonton, Scott Fraser

snapped a tie in the second period as the Oilers beat Vancouver to move into a tie for sixth place in the right West- n. em Conference. The loss eliminated the Canucks from Boston, Trevor Kidd, the Car- is in eighth place. Both teams the playoffs.

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thwest Airlines, which has been ed by smaller airlines and w ted officials of unfair practice speting with two small cament rice area. said that the guide e unwise and unconstitutions A major carrier could not know ny seats a small compenior way. ing, he said, or how many lickers. ling. "We can't find out wohour. a phone call, and that would ve : Sherman Antitrust Act." he su

TRAVEL UPDATE

usseldorf Reopens urned-Out Terminal

DUSSELDORF (Reuters) - I n terminal of this city's internation ort reopened Tuesday after ler ly damaged by a fire that lifed ple two years ago.

erminal A now includes such six he-art satety features as 2000 as ic fire plaints. 150 additional f ms, eight fire-reporting systems; smoke-clearing systems.

eek Transport Chao

THENS (AP) - Worker proc. oled air travel and mass une sday in a heavy salvo against ge rem effort: 'o restructure the sing 2 state carrier (il) mpic Airways 24-hour strike by Olympic a ees forces the cancellation of a national and 11 domestic flight r than half the total scheduk es. Meanwhile, heavy fog closedonia Airrott in Salonika. Aiie transport of there in Ather d a four-hour sympathy strike

l Nippon Airways of lapangrotwo international flights Tuesd ase of a strike Ten more flight ting more than 1,500 passensa e canceled Vicanceda, if the pit light crew strike continues, 147

all Disney World, in Florida W. its thoms park ticket prices than \$2 this month when it ope al Kingdom, ili largesi bas The cost of a pre-day passiver 2 including tax, or \$2.38 mg he current price



SPORTS

Pricing Cassell Calls Shots In Blitz of Hornets In Blitz of Hornets The Associated Press had 18 plus 11 rebounds. The Nets hit 18 of their first

lead that eventually grew to

Charlotte staged a come-back, closing the gap to four

points late in the third quarter,

then Cowens took most of the

starting unit out of the game

and the Nets responded with a

Mason was not happy with

My whole thing is if you

make a run like that, you keep

that team on the floor until

you dug a hole like that you

Magic 113, 76ers 92 Nick

17-3 run.

Cowens's decision.

20 just before halftime.

Sam Cassell is hot and intent on leading the New Jer- 25 shots to open a 17-point sey Nets to the playoffs for the first time in four years.

But down the hall after the game Mooday night, Anthony Mason was just as hot. Mason's target was his coach,

NBA ROUNDUP

Dave Cowens, after the Charlone Hornets got blitzed by Cassell in a 125-115 loss to the Nets.

. Cassell, the New Jersey point guard, carried the Nets their longues hang out, peri-for the second straight game od," Mason said. "If a team is with a career-high 35 points, making a run especially after 11 assists and no turnovers. It was the Hornets' fourth

said Cassell, who was I I-of-20 from the field and 13-of-14 from the free-throw line. "I don't like to say it, but it's the truth.'

The result Monday gave the Nets consecutive victories for the first time since Feb. 24-26, and it allowed them to open a one-game lead over idle Washington for the eighth and final playoff berth in the East.

On Saturday, Cassell, who won two championships with Sums 102, SuperSonies 92
Houston, had scored 30 In Seattle, Danny Manning points to lead New Jersey to a come-from-behind victory over the New York Knicks.

Not only is Cassell scoring. but he is setting up his team-The Nets had five players in double figures. Besides Cas-

sell and Evans, Kerry Kittles

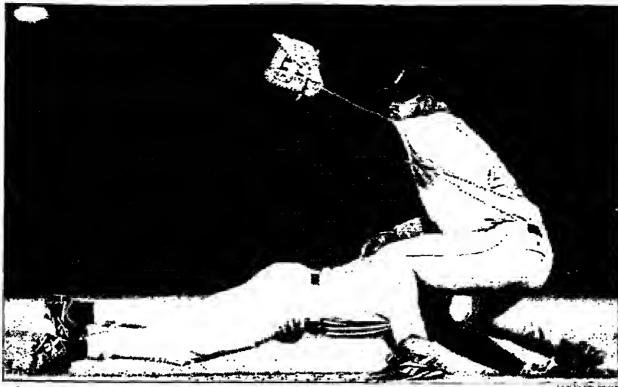
had 23 points, Keith Van

have to stay with it or the straight loss on the road.
"I make this learn go," players that are working. Everything was going our way and it all changed." Anderson scored 34 points as Orlando kept pace in the East-ern Conference playoff race.

1 know what the standings are. There is nothing that I can do about what they do," Or-lando's coach, Chuck Daly, said of the Nets, who are 11/2 games ahead of the Magic. This win helps for one night, but tomorrow is another

scored 23 points and Rex Chapman his two key shots down the stretch as Phoenix moved within 11/2 games of San Antonio for fourth place in the Western Conference. Blazers 79, Spurs 75

Rasheed Wallace scored 28 points, including two important free throws with 1:02 left Horn 21 and Chris Gatling to put Portland ahead, 78-75.



Mo Vaughn of the Red Sox reaching for a pickoff attempt as Craig Shipley of the Angels dives back into first.

Martinez Sharp, but Angels Are Sharper

The California Angels' hitters were not much of a match for Pedro Martinez. The Angels' pitchers were more than equal. Chuck Finley lasted longer than Martinez, though both were gone when Mait

AL ROUNDUP

Walbeck's single in the bottom of the 11th inning lifted California over the Boston Red Sox, 2-1, Monday night. Martinez, the 1997 National League Cy Young winner, struck out nine in

seven innings.
Finley struck out 10 in nine innings. He allowed four hits, compared with seveo off Martinez.

Garret Anderson drew a one-out walk in the Angels 11th from Tom Gordon and took third on Carlos Garcia's hit-and-run

beck hit a fly ball over Troy O'Leary's

head, barely inside the line in left. Mariners 8, Yankoos 0 Jumie Moyer and Paul Spoljaric combined on a threehitter and struck out 15 as Seanle kept New York struggling at the Kingdome.

22 at home against the Yankees. Moyer struck out 11 in seven innings and Spoljaric finished with hitless relief. Together, they came within one strikeout of matching the most ever in a

game against the Yankees. White Sox 5, Rangers 4 Playing to front of its smallest crowd for a home opener since 1975. Chicago beat Texas behind the hitting of rookie Magglio Ordonez. A crowd of 25,358 saw Ordonez hit a home run off Bobby Win that made it 4-

4 in the sixth and then deliver a bases-

single. With the outfield drawn in, Wal- loaded single in the eighth. Four White Sox relievers did not give up a hit in the last five innings, although they walked

Curlew Suspends Game

Cleveland's game at Oakland was suspended because of curfew after eight The Mariners have won 18 of their last innings with the Indians ahead, 6-5. In a game delayed by rain for three and a half hours. Cleveland led at the Oakland Coliseum when play was Expos manager.

stopped after eight innings because of the American League's curfew rule. About 200 fans from the announced attendance of 6,963 remained in the stands when the game was halted at 1:22 A.M. Under league rules, no inning may start after 1 A.M.

The resumption was scheduled for

Cubs, 6-1, **Keep Montreal Winless**

Chicago Erases Bad Memories Of Disastrous 0-14 Start in '97

The Associated Press

After a loss on opening day, record with three doubles, the Chicago Cubs have won and Milwaukee completed its six straight games - quite a first series sweep in the Naturnaround from last season when the Cubs lost their first game and the next 13.

You can't say, 'We're 6l, start buying World Series a row, while the Marlins have tickets.' We've got a long

NL ROUNDUP

way to go," said Rod Beck, the Cubs' closing pitcher, avoided a four-game sweep after their 3-2 victory Monday over the visiting Montreal Expos. "You've got to play consistent baseball.

Mark Grace, Chicago's first baseman, who doubled in a ruo, said: We've beaten the chief umpire, after Bobby teams we need to beat. Now Jones was called for a balk on we have to take this momentum into the oext series against the Mets.

home plate, and Pulli ruled that Olerud was not making a Montreal is beginning to resemble the '97 Cubs. The Expos, who have the lowest payroll in the majors, are the only winless team in either league at 0-6.

We're not giving games away - that's one thing I can said Felipe Alou, the

Mark Clark, Chicago's starting pitcher, hit a goahead single with two outs in the sixth, Clark gave up both runs and six his in eight innings, and Beck finished with one-hit relief for his fourth save in four chances. Brewers 8, Marlins 5 In

with a grounder and a two-run homer at the Astrodome, and Houston overcame Dante Bichette's 5-for-5 performance for Colorado.

Miami, Jeff Cirillo tied a club

tional League, winning its

fourth straight against the

Milwaukee has won five in

Pirates 4, Mets 2 Francisco

Cordova allowed five hits and

struck out eight in seven in-

nings, and visiting Pittsburgh

with some help from a dis-

With New York trailing 2-

0, Bobby Valentine, the Mets

manager, was ejected in the

a pickoff throw to first John

Olerud, the first baseman, had

taken a few siens toward

play on the runner when the

Keith Osik weot to second

Astros 13, Rockies 4 Jeff

Bagwell drove in three runs

on the balk, took third oo a

grounder and scored on Tony

half was thrown

Womack's single.

World Series champions.

lost six straight.

puted balk.

The Astros outhin the Rockies 15-13 on Monday to finish a series in which they won three of four games.



DJon chez (Zoun. Sv—Ir Calor House The Morn Ausen J. H Bogn Moefi Chica Sv—E Pittst F.C

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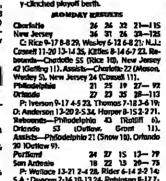
WESTERN CONTERENCE

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Boston 0 0 0-0
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(Primeau, Gelinas) 2. Carolina, Kapanen 26
(Kron, Wesley) Second Period: None. Third
Period: Corolina, Roberts 17 (O'Nell)
Kapanen) Shots on good: Carolina 10-8-
4-22. B-7-11-9-27. Goolles: Caroling, Kidd.
B-Dutoe.
NLY, Islanders ? 1 1-3
Tampa Bay 6 .0 9—6
First Period: New York, Polity 39
(Jonsson) Second Period: New York,
Smollnski 12 (Dowe, Reichel) Teire Period:
New York, Linden 16 (Czerkowski,
Daloneovill Shots on good: New York 6-15-
4-25, T- 5-11-10-26, Godles: New York,
Figherty, T-Fitzpotrick.
Toronto 0 1 1—2
Dallas 0 3 1—4
First Period: None. Second Period: T-

TELL YOUR DOG TO BITE HIM...



Behones 4 (Cooper, Modin) 2. D. Nieuwendyk 34 [Hogue, Syder) (pp), 3. D. Wrighti 4 (Marshall, Hogue) 4. D. Nieuwendyk 35 [Lektinen] Taird Poriod: T. Sundin 30 [Cafe, D. King) (pp), 6. D. Keane 9 (Reid) Stats sa gast: T-9-8-17--34, D-8-12-7-27, Goalbus: T-Potvin, D-Bettoyr. y-LA Lokers y-Phoenix y-Portland Socramento



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P: Iverson 9-17 4-5 23, Thomas 7-18 3-6 19;

O: Anderson 13-20 2-5 34, Horper 8-15 2-2 21.

Rebounds—Philodelphia 40 (Rothiff 6),

Orlando 53 (Outlaw, Gront 11).

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22. Rebounds—Phoents 54 1Manning, McDyess 7), Seattle 42 1Baker 12). only 27 (Kield 9), Septitle 23 cyton 5). CRICKET

TUESDAY IN KAMPUR, INDIA Australia: 222-9 (50 overs) India 223-4 (44.3) a won by six wickets.

THIANGULAR SERIES Sci Lanka-295-7 (50 men

SOCCER

STANDENGES Munichester United 66
points: Arsenal 60: Liverpool 54: Choisea,
Leeds, Blackburn 51; West Hom 47; Derby,
Aston Villa 45: Coventry 44: Southampton 43:
Leicester 41; Sheffield Wednesday 40;
Wisnobledon 37; Newcosite 38: Tottenham 35:

1. Martino Hingls, Switzerland, 5,570 pts 2. Lindsoy Devempert U.S., 4-142 3. Jana Novatna, Czech Republic, 3,808 4. Amanda Cuetter, South Africa, 3,071 5. Amartha Sanchez, Spain, 2,727 6. Mary Pierce, France, 2,691 7. Monica Setes, U.S., 2,610 8. Ins. Middle, Capatin, 2,701

10. Venus Williams. U.S., 2,360
11. Inino Spirico, Romanilo, 2,211
12. Nothalie Tauziot. Francs, 1,986
13. Sandrine Testud. Francs, 1,767
14. Dominique Van Roost, Belgium. 1,766
15. Anka Huber, Gormany, 1,786
16. Anna Koumbana, Russia, 1,544

TRANSITIONS

MASHMALL AMERICAN LEAGUE CLEVELAND-Placed INF Enrique Wilso

CLEVELAND—Placed INF Enrique Wilson on 15-day disabled fat, Purchased contract of INF Jolbert Caberra from Buttala, IL.

NEW YORK—Placed RHP Manlone Rivera on 15-day disabled Rs., Rocaled RHP Mike Buddle from Colymbus, IL.

TEXAS—Assigned RHP Danny Putterson to Tulso, TL. on rehabilitution posignement.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

FLORIDA—Optioned LHP Gabe Contract of INF Kevin Militar from Charlotte.

FOOTBALL

KANSAS CITY—Signed LB Ron Geor CB Anthony Prior to 2-year confrocts.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE LEDUMA—RECIBED OMINE RUCKS

U.S.—Monica Sclas, Mary Joe Fernander and Lisa Roymond were added to U.S. telan for its Fed Cop matches apartst Netherlands. on April 18-19. Lindsay Dovembert was selected earlier.

COLLEGE

NCAA—Placed Savannah State University
on 4 years probation and cut scholarships
because of post old excesses and lack of
institutional control of athletic process. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON-

HAT IS IT?

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CAN LEAGUE 310 000 000-4 7 0 100 821 07#-5 11 1

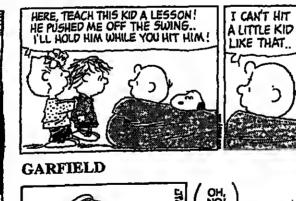




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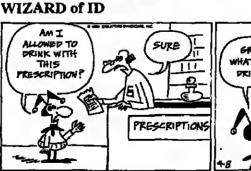






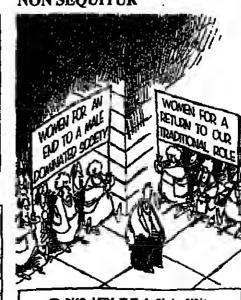
CALVIN AND HOBBES











ED DISCOVERS THE GOCIOLOGICAL CONFLUENCE OF A ROCK AND A LARD PLACE







OBSERVER

Hold the Liposuction

By Russell Baker

WASHINGTON — I am watching "Seinfeld" and reading about the new staying eternally young, news to women struggling to What isn't these days? news to women struggling to reduce sexual harassment.

Remember all that jogging? People who did it are now just of males will line up at pharas old as they would have been macies across the nation if they hadn't done it. Some seeking libidinal enhance-

died while they were doing it. harassment rate by a terrify-Life's a loss of the coin and a ing order of magnitude? question of genes, but if young was meant to be the world come up with a pill that eternal human condition women can take to repel the medical science would not have invented liposuction.

neered schemes for kidding yourself about the date of orously repelled? your first birthday — they remind me of something Jonathan Swift is supposed to have said: Everyhody wants to live forever, but nobody wants to grow old.

eye tucks? After some tucks,

people recoil from talk of correct etiquette. such stuff as impotence puls

Call me fuddy-duddy, or whatever the up-to-date syn- idea's fullest expression. Jerry onym may be, but credit me at and friends, however, are not least with trying — trying, for just staying eternally young. sweet Heaven's sake! — to They are doing something far speak of impotence pills in a more alluring to our age: They publication of the sort that might once have been read at

breakfast by my mother. Modern cool does not come easily to those who sbun eye tucks and shudder with dis-

gust at liposuction. The great publicity given impotence pill. Both are about this latest pill must be dismal

Can we doubt that millions of them might be dead if they hadn't done it." you say.

Sure. and some of them males will raise the sexual-

Can the pharmaceutical goatish advances of these pilldosed males, many of whom Liposuction and eye tucks will doubtless be old codgers and all such medically engi-eager to revisit spring, hence liable to fatal collapse if vig-

These coarse speculations keep encroaching on the delight I take in watching "Sein-feld," and I find myself watch-Have you noticed this about ing it in an entirely new way. When the show's closing was the tuckee looks like the pre- announced a few months back. tucked person whose body has people trying to explain its been occupied by an alien. success said it was the perfect show for our age because it show for our age because it was about absolutely nothing.

This makes no sense. For Bear with me, I'm rying to one thing, the present age is muster courage to speak of not about absolutely nothing; the new impotence pill. I am it just seems that way. The of that musty past when un-healthy repression of Utterly terly Tasteless Vulgarity present age is not about Ut-Tasteless Vulgarity made either; that's just its idea of

What the present age is and semen-stained garments. about is staying eternally young, and "Seinfeld" is the are refusing to grow up.

Ven York Times Service

All Hail the World's First Self-Service Jazz Club

By Mike Zwerin International Herald Tribune

New York - Mitch Borden's cosmic New York comp was when his cousin the musician invited him to hear him play in a club with Ahmad Jamal and it ended up costing Borden and his wife \$60 for two Coca-Colas.

There are often catches with comps -- in Las Vegas your lose an awful lot of money gambling before you earn a "complimentary" botel suite. Borden loved to listen to live jazz music, and discovering that he couldn't even afford to go when he was comped bewitched bim. He decided to do something about it.

He's a small guy, easily intimidated in bars and restaurants — the kind of persoo who never seems to catch the waiter's eye. He figured there must be a lot of people like him. He rented a basemeot in the West Village a few blocks south of the Village Vanguard, named it Smalls after a famous Harlem club of yore, and hired good bands that did not have eoough name recognition to find work elsewhere.

He charged \$10 at the door. This may not

sound all that cheap but that's New York for you. Besides, there's nothing else 10 pay.

Zilch. The rest is free. Help yourself.
This is the world's first self-service jazz. club. A coffee machine steams with a welcome smell; there are clean cups and sugar and milk. Pitchers of fruit juice, lemonade, colas, lea, mineral water and so oo are continually replenished — by Borden himself. He was so happy to be able to do away with waiters.

Since there's no liquor license there's no need for a barman. Since there's no booze, there are no drunks. The cost of the soft refreshments was so light that the door charge covered the cost of the music with enough left over for the rent. There was rarely enough for Borden, too. It's better now, but he does not seem to have minded missing paydays - at least he says be didn't. He says it was an honor to have contributed to the music.

Downstairs and downsized. Borden is a one-man band. He pays the hills and he books and pays the musicians; he buys and pours the soft drinks into the pitchers and be washes them later; be sweeps the floor and mans the door. Together with the producer Steve Backer, he negotiated a record contract with Impulse!, which has just now released a CD called "Jazz Underground - Live at



The Jason Lindner Big Band, now a regular at Smalls, got its break from Borden.

Israeli bassist Omer Avital; the pianist Frank bulletproof vest. Hewitt, and the leader of the resident big band, Jason Lindner. All of them are, or were, overdue for a break. Customers get the feeling that they are lining up the stairs and run on something other than greed.' out into the street to hear tomorrow's stars. A

feeling Borden promotes. "You have to play pretty to gig at Smalls," be says. "You can play out," but you have to get a beautiful tone from your instrument. I've been known to bust up jam sessions that have gotten too far 'out.' I don't

like nonsense. Bands are booked through the end of the

Featured are the club's regulars, like the looks that make birn think of investing in a

'This guy is my hero," says a veteran painter who has a studio in a nearby brownstooe. "Mitch proves that New York can still

Borden grew up in New Jersey. Outside of baving been a nurse, be says be has no special experience or talents. Nursing got him in shape for working long and late. He lives around the corner in three little rooms with his wife, two children and a dog. You see bim walking the dog and putting up posters at all bours.

Sometimes the only way he can get all the year, but when he tells that to eager mu- musicians and customers out of there at the sicians searching for work, he gets paranoid end of the night — or early in the morning —

is to turn on the cleaning light and vacuum like mad. "I'll say, Hey, it's morning, it's sunny out. But I don't really mind if they're still there. They keep me company. It's like a happening or something."

He gives the keys to musicians so they can rehearse in the afternoons and never worries: There's no booze, no cash in the register. There's nothing to steal but orange juice and musicians. Who'd want to steal a musician?

"I'm in awe of the people who play here their devotion to mosic. And it's a good audience. They are solid listeners. They come like they're going to school. They want to learn something. I've got wonderful cli-

Recording industry people have been coming down for showcases from 6 to 8 in the evenings. There's a buzz about the place: A vibraphone player named Stephan Harris was recently signed to a recording contract after his showcase.

One Saturday night last month a cleanlooking college type handed Borden a \$20 bill on the way out, "for me and my wife."
On the way out, remember, not in Borden said: "This is not necessary." The customer replied: "We feel better about it this way."

Borden shrugs, explaining: "If I miss people on the way in I figure, well, you win some you lose some. I figure these people have earned a free show. They got by me." This statement of permissive-corporate policy. is accompanied by a winning enigmatic smile: Paving so little in the first place, customers

feel duty-bound to be on the honor system." Borden, who is 41, was sitting in the back room between sets listening to a string quartet play classical music on the radio. He plays the viola. "I'm a young buck," he said. "I may look old today but I haven." Is slept in about a year. If this thing ever folds, I might see if I can get good enough to make money playing the viola. It's a hard instrument and there are not many good players."

Borden asked Mark Thompson, a young

composer who was installed in a corner writing notes on a small block of music paper, what was the name of an ornament, not quite a trill, that the string quartet on the radio had just played.
"A mordent," Thompson replied without

mocrats

lantering

er Report

Prim

Borden raised a skeptical eyebrow and pulled down a large, tattered encyclopedia from a shelf. He blew a cloud of dust off it

and turned some pages.
"That's right," he said. "A mordent."



Meredith Brooks won't be heading to Argentina again.

Boyd's biography of the apparently rediscovered American artist Nat Tate, where they heard Bowie read extracts. This week, the British art world was due to gather at a London restaurant for the British launch of the memoir. British papers have also run extracts from the book. But The Independent said the story of how Tate suffered from depression, burned most of his paintings and then jumped to his death from the Staten Island ferry in New York at age 31 was fiction. Some of the paintings pictured in the book were by Boyd himself, the paper said. The book was released by 21 Publishing, run by Bowie is a 6-foot-3 invisible rabbit, and the British magazine editor Karen Wright, among others, The Independent said. "Will Boyd and I were both aware it 'Part of it was, we were very amused that people kept saying

Argentina shouldn't look for Meredith Brooks anytime soon. The singer told USA Today that she was pelted with everything from rocks to tampons for 45 minutes when she

Yes, I've beard of him.' There is a willingness cot to appear

foolish. Critics are too proud for that."

S OME of the biggest names in the art world have been fooled by a literary hoax perpetrated by a British author and the exploded and went into my left eye. It got black and blue and swollen. I think I went into shock, but I come from the school of veteran British rock star David Bowie, a report said Tuesday. 'the show must go on.' I finished my set and then totally broke down." The crowd was apparently antsy to hear the Stones, she said. She tried again the oext night, putting on an Argentine soccer jersey and returning to the stage, only to be assaulted again. She threw the shirt on the ground and walked off. Then, sobbing, she told Mick Jagger she was leaving the tour. "Mick put his arms around me and said, 'I'm so sorry." The Independent newspaper reported bow last week the glitterati of New York gathered for a launch party of William

PEOPLE

Jimmy Stewart's hometown of Indiana, Pennsylvania, will give the actress Shirley Jones its 1998 Harvey Award, named for Stewart's 1950 film about a man whose best friend

1940s, is suing a Canadian company for using ber name and image on its Internet site without her permission. Lamarr, 85. is seeking damages from the Ottawa-based Corel Corp., an office products company, which uses Lamarr's image on its site for graphic-design software.

Dame Judi Dench, winner of the Golden Globe Award and opened for the Rolling Stones last week before 70,000 people in oominated for an Oscar for ber performance in "Mrs. Buenos Aires. "At one point, a big dirt clod hit my guitar and Brown." used the occasion of an interview in this week's

Radio Times magazine to announce that it would be her last. "It was better in the old days when the public didn't know so much about actors," said Deoch, 63. "One journalist said anyone in the public eye is oot entitled to a private life and I couldn't disagree more. We are entitled to a private life, so I'm battening down."

Bob Keeshan, best known as Captain Kangaroo, has been inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame. The six-time Emmy-winning "Captain Kangaroo" ran oo CBS for 30 years — the loogest-running children's TV show ever, the association said.

Peron Brooch Fetches \$992,500

NEW YORK - A broocb made for Eva Peroo by Van Cleef and Arpels sold for \$992,500 at Christie's, far exceeding the auctioo house's highest estimate.

Modeled on the flag of Argentina, the platinum-set piece contains seven baguette-cut diamonds and hundreds of square-cut sapphires and circular-cut diamonds, with yellow diamonds in the flag's central sun motif. Christie's said the brooch, which it had estimated would bring at most \$120,000, was sold to an unidentified telephone bidder.





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connected to English-speaking operators and get AT&T's quick, clear connections.

Plus, you can use your AT&T Calling Card or any of these major credit cards.

Now, what could be easier than that?



Steps to follow for easy calling worldwide:

1. Just did the AT&T Access Number for the	country you are calling from 2. Dial the phone nu	mber you're calling.3.Dial your card number.				
AT&T ACCESS NUMBERS						
Austria •	Greece●00-800-13t l treland □	Saudi Arabia				
Czech Republic 4 99-42-999-191	Israel 177-100-2727	Sweden020-795-611				
Egypt•(Cairo)	Italy •	Switzerland •				
Commons						

For access numbers not listed above ask any operator for AT&T Direct* Set